

THURSDAY
MARCH 12, 1998

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The Sea Coast Echo

VOL. 107, NO. 21

BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI

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TWO SECTIONS, 32 PAGES

Special meeting

A special meeting of the Mayor and Waveland Board of Aldermen with the Hancock County Wastewater District #1 is scheduled today at 11 a.m. at the Wastewater District office on Longfellow Drive.

Seafood dinner

A St. Clare seafood Lenten dinner will be held on Friday, Mar. 13, 5-7:30 p.m. at St. Clare's cafeteria.

Proceeds from the dinner go towards St. Clare School.

The dinner will include fried catfish, shrimp, oysters and seafood gumbo. Dinners are a donation of \$5 adults, \$3 children; combination plates are \$7.

Blood drive

The American Legion Post 77 is holding a blood drive on Wednesday, Mar. 18, 2-7 p.m. at the Legion Hall on Coleman Avenue, in Waveland.

St. Joseph altar

The public is invited to celebrate St. Joseph's Day on Thursday, Mar. 19, at the Diamondhead St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 5303 Diamondhead Circle.

Holy Mass will begin at 12 noon. After the Mass, refreshments will be served.

For more information call Bernadette Iverson at 467-5846 or 256-5092.

St. Joseph's Chapel and Altar on Dunbar Ave. will be open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursday, Mar. 19 for all those wishing to honor St. Joseph.

Opening prayers and a talk will be offered by Fr. Babin or Fr. Cosgrove.

Anyone wishing to help, call P. Smith at 467-0446 or Peggy Eagan at 467-9570.

All cash donations will be offered to the SVDP Society.

TIDES

	DAY	HIGH	LOW
Sat.	1:32 p.	5:51 p.	
Sun.	1:31 a.	9:07 a.	
Mon.	12:58 p.	8:02 p.	
Mon.	2:56 a.	7:57 a.	
Mon.	1:06 p.	9:49 p.	
Mon.	1:31 p.	11:29 p.	

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Pier emergency

The Pass Christian Board of Aldermen has let an emergency contract for almost \$10,000 to upgrade electrical wiring in an area on the west side of the Municipal Harbor where mostly sailboats dock. The repair work to be financed with Tidelands funds was slated for later this year, but February's storm caused more damage to the pier area and aldermen declared the dangerous wiring situation an emergency. (Echo staff photo by Richard Meek)

St. Pat's parade Saturday

BY RICHARD MEEK

Waveland Civic Association's 34th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade is scheduled to roll through the streets of Waveland beginning at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

The parade will begin at the intersection of Waveland and Central avenues, proceed down Central to Coleman Avenue, south on Coleman to Beach Boulevard, roll down Beach to Lafitte, Lafitte to Central, and disband at Central and Coleman.

The parade, first held by the WCA in 1964, is the oldest St. Patrick's Day parade on the Coast. Last year, the parade drew an estimated crowd of 7,000, and parade organizers are expecting a larger crowd this year.

The Grand Marshal is Richard "Jerry" Melancon Jr. of Waveland. Melancon retired after a long career with American Standard, Inc., in New Orleans.

Melancon is a commissioner for the Waveland Housing Authority and a member of the American Legion Post 77, the Waveland Senior Citizens, the WCA and the Reboot Club.

He is the father of Barbara Landry and Sandra Odom, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

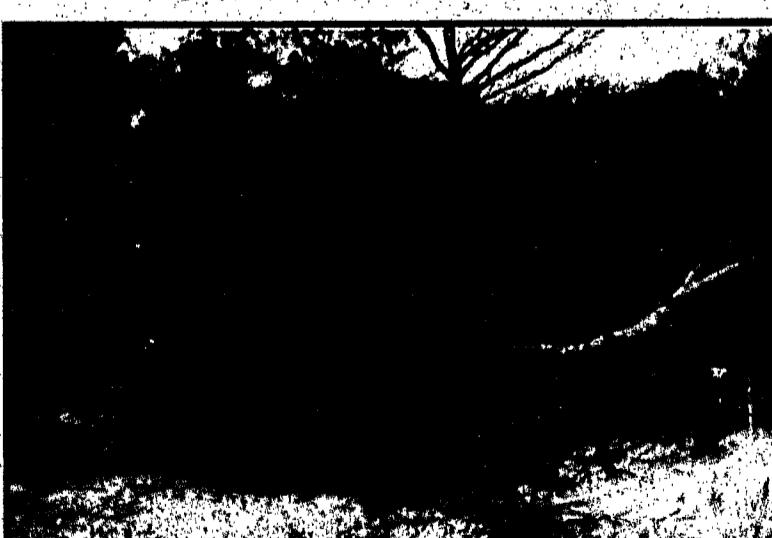
The 1998 Colleen is Alicia Mary Schulz, a junior at Bay High School. She is editor of the school yearbook and secretary of the junior class; a member of Students Against Drunk Driving, the Spanish Club and the National Honor Society.

She is the daughter of Kelvin and Emily Schulz. Emily Schulz was the WCA Colleen 25 years ago, marking the first time a former Colleen's daughter has had the title.

Among the throws this year will be a commemorative WCA cup, a first for the organization, as well as thousands of pounds of cabbages and plenty of beads, trinkets and moon pies.

The New Orleans Navy Band will make a special appearance, as well as Mrs. Mississippi Ronnie Bueche.

Also participating will be the Mississippi National Guard Youth Challenge Academy drill team from Camp Shelby and the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick from Mobile, Ala.



Uprooted

Several young trees at Cowans Point in Bay St. Louis were uprooted by waves Saturday during the third wind and rain storm of the year to hit the area. Some residents had to evacuate because of water coming into their homes. Owners of several vehicles were once again seeking repairs because of the rising water from rainfall and winds. (Echo staff photo by Ellis C. Cuevas)

OBITUARIES

DANA H. BARGER
ELY G. MCMILLAN
DALLAS SALSBURY
HILDA L. SEGUIN
LOUIE SIMOLKE SR.
WILTON K. TANKERSLEY
ALICE C. TRIM

DANA H. BARGER

Dana Hugh Barger, 66, of Bay St. Louis, died Friday, March 6, 1998, in Bay St. Louis.

Mr. Barger was a native of Topeka, Kan., and was a retired security guard.

Survivors include two daughters, Dianna Sue Bret of Omaha, Neb., and Pauline McDonald of Phoenix.

Graveside services will be conducted 10 a.m. Friday in St. Joseph Cemetery in Rotten Bayou.

Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis is in charge of arrangements.

ELY G. MCMILLAN

Ely G. McMillan, 86, of Violet, La., died Tuesday, March 10, 1998, in Violet.

Mr. McMillan was a native of Pelham, Ga., a resident of Bay St. Louis for 30 years and a resident of Violet for three months. Previously he was a truck driver and managed a service station for Target Oil Co. in Bay St. Louis.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Velma S. McMillan.

Survivors include a son, Marcus McMillan of LaGrange, Ga.; stepsons Charles Davis Tyner

Jr. of Purvis and Norbert Tyner of Orlando, Fla.; a daughter, Margaret Nasworthy of Violet; 15 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Visitation was Wednesday at Riemann Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis. A graveside service will be conducted today at 11 a.m. in Lumberton City Cemetery, Lumberton, Miss.

DALLAS SALSBURY

Dallas Salbury, of Baton Rouge, died Monday, March 9, 1998, in Baton Rouge.

Mr. Salbury was a native of Rayville, La., and had resided in Baton Rouge, Diamondhead and in the French Quarter of New Orleans. He was the No. 1 Dodge dealer in Louisiana for 12 years and was former president of the National Dodge Dealers Advertising Council, New Orleans Zone Advertising Council and the Dodge Dealers Council. He was also a former member of the Dodge Chargers Group and was recently named a Chrysler Five Star Dealer.

He was preceded in death by his father, H. Dallas; a son, Mark; and a good friend "Riggaboo."

Survivors include his wife, Boone; his mother, "Ma Gatha"; a daughter, Leah; a son, Joel; a sister, Betty Carraway; a brother, Butch Salbury; and four grandchildren.

Visitation was Wednesday evening at Rabenhorst Funeral

Home East, 11000 Florida Avenue in Baton Rouge. Services will be conducted 10 a.m. today in the funeral home chapel. Burial will be in Resthaven Gardens of Memory.

The family prefers memorials to St. Jean Vianney Catholic Church Building Fund.

HILDA L. SEGUIN

Mrs. Hilda LeBlanc Seguin, 95, of Pass Christian, died Saturday, March 7, 1998, in Bay St. Louis.

Mrs. Seguin was a native of New Orleans and a Catholic.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Charles Seguin.

Survivors include a daughter, Violet Seguin Reuther of Metairie, La.; four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Monday at P. J. McMahon Funeral Home Chapel in New Orleans. Burial was in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery in New Orleans.

Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis was in charge of local arrangements.

LOUIE SIMOLKE SR.

Louie R. Simolke Sr., 68, of Bay St. Louis, died Saturday, March 7, 1998, in Gulfport.

Mr. Simolke was a native of Dubock, La., and was a retired caster with American Standard Company.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Terry Louise Simolke; and his parents, Fred M. and Mattie Brown Simolke.

Survivors include his long-time companion, Lena "Laurie" Ladner; a son, Louis R. Simolke Jr., both of Bay St. Louis; two daughters, Patricia Ann Bonney of Pass Christian and Laura Dale Bernos of Bay St. Louis; four brothers, Frank M. Simolke of Slidell, Laverne A. Simolke, both of Minden, La., and Carl "Jack" Simolke of Shreveport, La.; three sisters, Evelyn Bradley and Pauline Craig, both of Minden, and Marie Lee of Slidell; nine grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

Services will be conducted 1 p.m. today at Edmond Fahey

Funeral Home Chapel in Bay St. Louis, where friends may call after 9 a.m. Graveside services will follow at 3 p.m. in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery in New Orleans.

WILTON K. TANKERSLEY

Wilton K. Tankersley, 58, of Bay St. Louis, died Wednesday, March 11, 1998, in Bay St. Louis.

Mr. Tankersley was a native of New Orleans and a retired master plumber. He was a member of Shoreline Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John Tankersley Sr. and Tresa Mitchell Tankersley.

Survivors include his wife, Debbie H. Tankersley of Bay St. Louis; sons James Gaudie and Stanley Tankersley, both of Bay St. Louis; Michael Gaudie of LaPlace, La., and Patrick Harrington of Dallas, Texas; daughters Sherrie St. Germain of Chalmette, La., Lois Tankersley of Madisonville, La.; brother, John Tankersley Jr. of Bay St. Louis; and 15 grandchildren.

Visitation will be today, 6-8 p.m. at Riemann Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis, followed by services at 8 p.m. in Riemann Funeral Home Chapel. Graveside services will be conducted Friday, March 13 at 11 a.m. in Biloxi National Cemetery.

ALICE C. TRIM

Alice Carrie Trim, 83, of Carriere, died Saturday, March 7, 1998, in Picayune.

Mrs. Trim was a native of Pearl River County. She retired as owner of Trim Grocery and was a member of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Picayune.

Survivors include her husband, George Trim of Carriere; a son, George Larry Trim of Lawrenceville, Ga.; a daughter, Shirley C. Herrin of Montevallo, Ala.; two brothers, Talmage Spiers of McNeill and Lyonell Spiers of Carriere; a sister, Lillian Christine Glidewell of Waveland; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Visitation was Monday evening at McDonald Funeral Home in Picayune. Services were conducted Tuesday at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Burial was in McNeill Cemetery.

ST. ANN-ST. JOHN NEWS

Thoughts for meditation: Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4 & 8

There are two freedoms—the false, where a man is free to do what he likes, and the true, where a man is free to do what he ought.

—Kingsley

Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth. My hope is in you all day long.

Psalm 25:4-5

True happiness depends upon close alliance with God.

The Clermont Harbor Methodist Church will be sponsoring a BBQ chicken dinner today for \$4 per plate and again on Saturday, March 14, 11 a.m. until.

Mark your calendar now. The first St. Patrick's Day 50/50 Countdown Party is coming Tuesday, March 17 at 7 p.m. in St. Ann Parish Hall. For information, call the Parish Office at

Our Lady of the Gulf Lenten schedules

The Way of the Cross will be each Friday at 5 p.m. during Lent.

Daily masses will be Monday-Friday at 7 a.m., 8:15 a.m., and 12:05 p.m.

OLG Parish Mission themes at the church March 15-19 will be:

March 14, Fr. Albert Babine, CSSR and Fr. Edward Cosgrove, CSSR, will speak at all masses.

March 15, "God's Unconditional Love for Us"

March 16, "Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior"

March 17, "Jesus Came to Reconcile Us to the Father and

467-4746. Stations of the Cross are held each Wednesday at 6 p.m. at St. Ann Church.

The CYO convention is scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 20-22.

There will be a pre-baptism class Thursday, March 19 at 7 p.m. in St. Ann Parish Hall.

A parish mission will be presented by Father John Izral Saturday, March 28. He will speak at all weekend masses at St. Ann and St. John churches Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

The mission will begin Sunday, March 29 at 7 p.m. at St. John Church, Lakeshore and will continue Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Father Izral will also speak at the morning masses (8:30) at St. Ann Church.

Theme of the mission will be "Healing and Reconciliation."

Today fill an emptiness in someone's life. Irrespective of age, you can add happiness and eliminate loneliness in another person's day.

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Permits held until hookups complete

BY ED LEPOMA

The county building official says he is not allowed to issue permits to build in Shoreline Park until sewerage lines are actually laid down in front of the property.

Just recently, Hancock's Wastewater District 1 announced it will soon embark on an extension of the sewerage lines, which will link 540 more Shoreline Park properties to the system. Estimates are the contract could be let in late April or early May with construction expected to take 18 months.

After identifying streets to be added to the system, Wastewater District Supt. Pam Gauthreaux instructed home builders to come to her office, and get a letter which they could bring to the county building official, so they could get a building permit.

Gauthreaux estimated about 10 persons were given the letter and a permit to build, but Willie Gavney, the county's chief building inspector and zoning enforcement officer, said those permits have been revoked.

"I'm sorry, but the Board of Supervisors has passed a resolution directing the health department not to issue a permit until the sewerage connection is actually in place in front of a residence," said Gavney.

Gavney said home builders can try to get the county Health Department to approve an alternate system, such as a septic tank, so they can begin building. "But, unless that happens, they can't build," he said.

Gavney advised property owners who have questions to call his office at 467-4157 or 466-4727 during normal office hours: Mondays through Fridays.

In another related matter, Gauthreaux said she had had no adverse reaction to a public advertisement placed in the Echo notifying property owners that the Wastewater District has raised installation fees.

"This applies only to those property owners who have vacant lots in areas that are already sewered," said Gauthreaux.

Those property owners will now be charged \$2,000 rather than the \$500 originally charged to hook up to the sewerage system.

"It's a better deal all around," said Gauthreaux. "It used to cost property owners an average of \$3,500 to hook up to the system, and they installed their lines and maintained them. Now, we will install the line from the road to the house, and maintain the system too."

There is still a \$50 monthly fee for sewerage customers, she said.

Armed robbery suspect nabbed

BY RICHARD MEEK

A Bay St. Louis man is in custody in connection with the armed robbery of the E-Z Food Store at the corner of Second Street and Highway 90 in Bay St. Louis.

Bay St. Louis Assistant Police Chief David Stepro said Robert Lee Hatter, 31, of Second Street in Bay St. Louis, was arrested early Tuesday morning, shortly after the robbery. Stepro said Hatter allegedly walked into the store shortly after midnight on Tuesday and demanded money from the clerk. Stepro said Hatter fled on foot with an undetermined amount of money.

After Hatter responded, Hatter was apprehended at the corner of 12th and Seminary and charged with armed robbery.

He is being held in the Hancock County Justice Facility in Bay St. Louis.

Detective Kevin Fayard is in charge of the investigation. Officers involved in the arrest were Sgt. Richard Hamm, Off. Tom Fornahan, Off. Jim Williams, Off. Jim Williams, Off. Jim Williams, and the Waveland canine unit.



Band supporter

Catchie Crider, left, Bay High band director, accepts \$550 check from Edith Back, of the Bay St. Louis Little Theatre. The check represents proceeds of a performance of "A Tuna Christmas" by theatre actors to help pay for sending the band to EPCOT, where they have been invited to perform. "We hope that our benefit will encourage others to raise money for the band," Back said. The cost is \$175 for each of the 65 band members. For further information, call Crider at Bay High Band Hall, 467-4772. (Echo staff photo by Ellis C. Cuevas)

Law enforcement prepares to walk for Special Olympics

Hancock County Sheriff's Department, along with Bay St. Louis and Waveland Police Departments, are sponsoring a charity walk-a-thon in an effort to raise monies to support the approximately 13,000 athletes in Mississippi's Special Olympics.

The walk-a-thon is scheduled for Saturday, April 25 and will begin at 8 a.m. at the foot of the Bay St. Louis Bridge. The route of approximately six miles will be along South Beach Boulevard, ending at Buccaneer State Park, where walkers will be provided food and drinks.

A \$15 registration fee will entitle individuals to a specially

Sugar Buster Luncheon set

Hancock Medical Center will sponsor at Sugar Buster luncheon on Sat., Mar. 21, noon to 2 p.m., at Torgy's on the Green, Casino Magic, Bay St. Louis.

Dr. Sam Andrews, endocrinologist, one of the Sugar Buster's authors, will be the keynote speaker.

Cost of the luncheon is \$8 per person.

There will be limited seating.

For reservations call 467-8790, or 466-3391.

MIL

MEN

POS SMITH

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Rosalind E. Smith, daughter of Janice Jones of Pass Christian, recently departed the Persian Gulf with Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 138, embarked aboard the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Nimitz, the lead ship of the USS Nimitz Battle Group.

The 1994 graduate of Gulfport High School joined the Navy in October 1994.

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St. Ann's Building Fund

Donation: \$50 each

Drawing to be held St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 7 PM at St. Ann Hall in Clermont Harbor

For tickets, call 467-4746

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Diabetes

Glucose Test: \$5 Special Cash Price

Take this test. The following are frequent symptoms of diabetes mellitus:

- Excessive thirst
- Frequent urination
- Unexplained weight loss
- Tingling in the hands or feet



If you find that you are experiencing these symptoms, it's a good idea to learn more about diabetes—a serious condition that can lead to kidney failure, limb loss, even blindness.

Dr. Michael Culliso, family practitioner, will conduct an informative seminar covering the symptoms, diagnostic measures and treatment of diabetes. The talk will be followed by a question/answer session. Since diabetes can manifest silently only to show up later as the disease progresses; everyone is encouraged to attend...but particularly those with symptoms or a family history of diabetes. The seminar will be held

Saturday, March 21 at 10 a.m. in NorthShore Regional Medical Center's Main Dining Room, 100 Medical Center Drive. Seminar attendance is free, but seating is limited. Make your reservations today by calling 1-800-723-8723.

In conjunction with the seminar, NorthShore Regional will host a diabetes screening in the hospital's Azalea Room, from 8 to 11 a.m. Dr. Mac Groves, an expert in podiatry, will examine legs and feet for diabetes-related problems. Carol Spicer RN, diabetic nurse, will perform glucose tolerance tests at \$5 each. Participants are asked to fast for four hours prior to the test.

Lung Cancer

Chest X-Ray: \$45 Special Cash Price

Lung cancer is a serious, and unfortunately common form of cancer. Early detection can make all the difference in treatment and quality of life. The disease affects men more often than women and is often associated with cigarette smoke.

Symptoms include a chronic cough.

Dr. Francisco Candal, pulmonologist, will conduct a fact-filled seminar covering the signs, diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer. Everyone is encouraged to attend...but particularly those who smoke, live with a smoker or have a family history of lung disease. This free seminar will be held **Thursday, March 26 at 7 p.m. in NorthShore Regional Medical Center's Main Dining Room, 100 Medical Center Drive.** Because diagnosis and early intervention are key to a higher lung cancer survival rate, NorthShore Regional is offering chest x-rays to seminar attendees for a special cash price of \$45. Make your seminar and x-ray reservations today by calling 1-800-723-8723.

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"CUEVAS' QUOTES"

By Ellis C. Cuevas

Saturday at 2 p.m. is the big annual Waveland Civic Association St. Patrick's Day parade in Waveland. Grand Marshal for the parade is Richard (Jerry) Melancon Jr., and the 1998 Colleen is Alicia Mary Schulz, daughter of the Kelvin Schulz's of Bay St. Louis.

Alicia Schulz's mother, Emily Mollere Schulz, was the Waveland Civic Association's Colleen 25 years ago, which is the first for the association.

The parade begins at the intersection of Waveland and Central avenues, proceeds Waveland Avenue to Coleman Avenue, Coleman to Beach Boulevard, Beach to Lafitte, Lafitte to Central, and disband at Central and Coleman.

An added attraction this year will be the Navy Band from New Orleans.

Jay Fountain, president of the Waveland Civic Association, reports this year will be the first time the name of the Grand Marshal and date of the parade will appear on the WCA's cups which will be thrown during the parade.

Parade viewers need to make sure they bring a sack along to put their treats, as thousands of pounds of cabbage, plenty of beads, trinkets, moon pies and other items will be thrown.

Waveland Civic Association floats will be joined by marching groups, family and organization floats and Waveland's Mrs. Mississippi, Ronnie Bueche.

I hope to see you at the parade Saturday afternoon.

There should be a large number of supporters of the Bay High Lady Tigers in Jackson on Saturday, as the Bay St. Louis girls are in the finals of the Class 4A basketball state finals.

There were five bus loads of Bay High students in the stands in Jackson as the Lady Tigers defeated Noxubee 55-47 in the semi-finals Tuesday night.

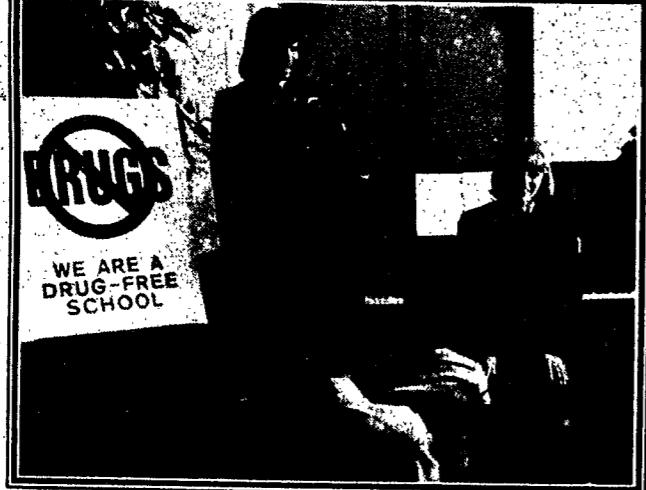
State Representative J.P. Compreta, Senator Scotie Cuevas, Waveland Mayor John Mason and Superintendent Dr. Michael Reed were at Tuesday night's game to wish the Lady Tigers to victory.

This is the first time for a Lady Tiger basketball team to reach a berth in the state finals.

Basketball coach Debbie Triplett and the Lady Tigers need the support of everyone in the Saturday afternoon game in Jackson.

I am hoping there will once again be a large turnout of Lady Tiger supporters in the stands.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM THE SENATE

By Senator Trent Lott

Supervisors make good move with Carbon appointment

Dear Editor:

The Hancock County Board of Supervisors should be applauded for their vision, foresight and sense of justice for the appointment of Lynette Carbon as the new director of Civil Defense.

Winston Churchill said in describing the dedication of the British pilots in the Battle of Britain that "Never have so few given so much to so many." That statement should also apply to the new director of Civil Defense.

Lynette Carbon exemplified the statement of Winston Churchill: For many years, she has been a professional, dedicated, work ethic and "quiet competence" have been a guiding light of the department charged with the protection of the lives and property

of the citizens of Hancock County.

I feel privileged to have given a measure of volunteer service to Civil Defense in the past and deem it the greatest of honors to have Lynette Carbon as director of Hancock County Civil Defense.

I feel the future of Hancock County Civil Defense could not be in better, more capable hands than under the leadership of Lynette Carbon.

Congratulations, Board of Supervisors, for outstanding vision in this appointment. You have demonstrated how deeply you care for the safety and well-being of all the citizens of Hancock County.

Jim Maness
Lakeshore

Engineer corrects article

Dear Editor:

I would like to correct a portion of the March 1 edition from the article titled "Engineers give Engman advice."

I was present to introduce our company, BCM Engineers, Inc., to the Bay St. Louis City Council.

The article, on page 10A, quoted my name as Eric Martin. Actually, my name is Eric Mortenson.

The article also mentioned that "BCM is a Mobile-based firm." This is not correct.

Mobile is one of BCM's regional offices. Our presentation to the City Council was represented by our local Gulfport office which represents Hancock County as well.

Sincerely,
Eric R. Mortenson III
Project Engineer with
BCM Engineers

Revolutionary War vets' grave sites sought

Dear Editor:

The Mississippi Society, Sons of the American Revolution (MSSAR) is seeking the help of ancestors of Revolutionary War veterans who are buried in Mississippi, and cemetery custodians who may be knowledgeable of such.

We want to compile a complete list of those buried in our state who fought to gain our independence. Secondly, we especially want to learn of any such patriot whose grave may not have a marker. Lastly, we want to know those who may have markers, but tombstones that

do not expressly identify their having fought in our Revolution.

If you should have such knowledge, please pass to me the veteran's name, the name of the cemetery in which he is buried, the location of that cemetery, whether the grave is marked, and if so, whether the marker expressly credits his Revolutionary War service.

Joseph L. Faint
MSSAR Graves and
Landmarks Committee
1014 College Street
Columbus, MS 39701

Flag constitutional amendment needs Senate passage

Dear Editor:

In 1989, the Supreme Court, by one vote, ruled that the first amendment of the Constitution gave citizens the right to publicly desecrate the American flag, because they ruled this was "freedom of speech."

The Citizens' Flag Alliance is sponsoring a movement to support a bill introduced by Senator Orrin Hatch and Max Cleland for the passing of a constitutional amendment giving Congress the right to protect the flag from desecration. This bill passed the House by an overwhelming majority and now goes to the Senate.

In support of this movement, the American Legion Post 77 and its auxiliary are urging all citizens to write to their senators, Trent Lott and Thad Cochran, and to join in the "Show Your Colors, America" campaign by flying the American flag daily from Memorial Day to Veterans Day.

This will show Congress how much we love and respect our flag.

For God and Country,
Frances M. Crist
Legislative Chairman
American Legion Auxiliary
Unit 77
Waveland

Don't Put Your
Baby's Health
On The Line

The Care You
So You Can Take Care of Your Baby

ISTEA and the budget

Since becoming Majority Leader of the Senate, I have taken on many new responsibilities.

Among them I am responsible to open and close the Senate session each day, oversee the administrative functions of the entire Senate and also meet with various foreign dignitaries during their visits to Washington.

While these are all important and worthwhile duties, my top priority remains to people of Mississippi.

My staff will tell you that when considering almost any project or legislation, my first question is "How will this help the people of Mississippi?" I asked that question when we began debating the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) years ago, and I am determined to shape the answer in a positive way for the people of our great state.

Involving more than \$175 billion over six years for states to use to build roads and bridges, ISTEA will provide a formula to distribute that funding.

The current formula is unfair to states like Mississippi, which receive a substantially lower portion in return from the money they contribute to the highway trust fund when they pay gas taxes at the pump. We are dealing with a lot of money, and the formula we devise will affect every state in the nation, including our own.

Last year I urged the House of Representatives and the Senate to put politics aside and take up this bill, but my efforts were defeated. I tried on four separate occasions to move the Senate into action on ISTEA, but to no avail. I knew it then and I still believe that the Senate made a mistake in not insisting on legislative action.

Today, many of the same people who blocked this bill last year now want to address it. But this year is complicated by the funding levels established in the historic Balanced Budget Agreement.

My responsibilities as Majority Leader are to keep the overall budget requirements a process to keep faith with those numbers.

ISTEA is one of my priority bills and its treatment within the budget sequence will ensure its passage during this session of Congress. We stood in the Ro-

tunda of the United States Capitol last summer and announced that we had reached an agreement with the President on how to control taxes and spending, and we entered into that agreement with the intention to carry it out. ISTEA will honor that commitment. ISTEA will also honor another commitment, one made by the government to taxpayers about the transportation trust funds—the money you and I pay into these funds will be used for the necessary infrastructure.

Many are calling for more spending on transportation and the current ongoing legislative process is finding a way to do just that—spend more yet live within the Balanced Budget Agreement.

But we all must remain cautious that this does not break the dam and cause another avalanche of uncontrolled, undisciplined spending.

There are very few places where I think the government should be involved in spending money. Defense is one, and building transportation infrastructure is another. One is for our national security and the other is for our economic security.

Infrastructure is an item the people cannot take care of by themselves. The government has a role, and needs to do its part. Congress needs to act responsibly and keep the government's promise to the American people.

Very few in the Senate have a longer history than I do of voting to spend the highway trust fund for the purpose it was intended—highways and bridges.

So I am eager to tackle this legislation. I am also eager to keep my Mississippi priorities in order. I will work to stay within the parameters of the Balanced Budget Agreement, because all Americans are winning with this formula. I will also work to get the transportation funds Mississippi needs and deserves.

Senator Lott welcomes any questions and/or comments about this column. Write to: U.S. Senator Trent Lott, 487 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (Attn. Press Office)

Letters Welcome

The Sea Coast Echo welcomes comments from its readers on subjects of general interest. Letters must be signed and include address or phone number so that the sender can be contacted by the newspaper if necessary. Letters should be brief, preferably typewritten and double spaced, and conform to standards of good taste. Only one letter per writer per month will be published. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject letters.

Letters of thanks, expressions of appreciation and political endorsements are considered inappropriate for the Letters to the Editor columns.

—Ellis C. Cuevas, publisher

IN AND AROUND DIAMONDHEAD

By Margaret Williamson

On Wednesday, April 1, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., the Diamondhead Garden Club will welcome you at the Community Center for their annual flower and horticultural exhibit.

The talents of flower arranging, growing unique and unusual plants by the members of the club is always a lovely and worthwhile display.

It's also the day for Diamondhead's participation in the Spring Pilgrimage sponsored by the Gulf Coast Garden Clubs Council.

All are free, and everyone is invited. Diamondhead is showing off this year with five beautiful homes and three beautiful gardens.

The flowers are already blooming, and the trees are showing their spring buds and new foliage. Our wish is for lots of sunshine for a great start to Spring.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS COLLECTION
The sixth grade Girl Scouts of

Diamondhead Troop 269 are collecting new and used children's books to expand the children's section of the Diamondhead Lending Library.

The book drive will continue throughout March. A community collection box is located in the Diamondhead Supermarket.

An open house to display the newly collected titles will be Thursday, April 9, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Juice and cookies will be served by the Scouts.

The Scouts chose this project to benefit the Diamondhead community as well as to promote education through reading.

This service project culminates a year-long quest by these girls to earn the Junior Girl Scout Leadership Pin.

The six Scouts are Marjorie Blanchette, Ashley Flynt, Joelle Kiefer, Katherine Moody, Allena Nittiss and Lauren Veach.

For information, contact Pam Nittiss at 255-0555 or Chris Veach at 255-0553.

Mark your calendars

DON'T FORGET

It's only a \$3 donation to see some of our best artists' works at the Diamondhead Women's Club's fourth annual Spring Art Fling Saturday, March 14, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Community Center. All proceeds to help the Alzheimer's Foundation and Hope Haven.

YOU ARE INVITED

Help celebrate St. Joseph's Day Thursday, March 19, at noon at St. Thomas Episcopal Church across from the Community Center.

Father Henry of Annunciation Church will begin Holy Mass at noon.

St. Joseph's earthly duty was protector and head of the Holy Family, and many pray to him for guidance.

All are welcome, no matter what their religious affiliation may be, and after the mass, please stay for refreshments and view the altar.

For information, call 255-9308 for more details.

nadette Iverso at 255-9846 or Rose Espinosa, 255-5907.

IT'S A CARD SOCIAL

To help the Diamondhead Lions with their many projects, Groups of four or more are playing bridge, canasta, etc. on Tuesday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day, 7 p.m. at the Community Center. You can't help but be lucky and win some nice prizes. The donation is \$5 a ticket. Be sure to sign the back of your ticket with a phone number. Please call Joel at 255-9308 for more details.

TOWN HALL MEETING

The Incorporate Diamondhead Community, Inc. will try to answer all your questions and present information on how to incorporate Diamondhead.

The pros and cons about this being in Diamondhead's future will be aired, and all are welcome on March 26, 2 p.m. at the Community Center.

WORKING FOR A BETTER DIAMONDHEAD

This is the motto of the Diamondhead Community Association and the new officers for 1998-99 are busy doing just that: president Dick Weber, vice president Pat Outlaw, secretary Pat Morgan, treasurer Rose Rybicki, and new board members Doris Gendusa, Sally Lindsay, Roger Urbano, and Ken Rankin.

To have a voice in what's happening to benefit Diamondhead, please support and participate in your DCA. Its \$10 per year per family.

NOTICE

Saturday, March 28, the Diamondhead Boaters Association will hold its annual membership meeting 10 a.m. at the Community Center.

Board members would like to hear from you, so please try to attend. The annual crawfish boil (for members only) takes place the same day at the Diamondhead Ship's Store at 3 p.m.

TENNIS ANYONE?

Yes, and lots of senior ladies from all over the country will be competing as Diamondhead's Tennis World hosts the Women's National 60, 70, 80s clay court championships March 16-22. Everyone is welcome to come out and watch these nationally ranked players compete.

Play on these days will start at 9 a.m. through 6 p.m. admission is free.

For information, call Steve at 255-5030.

HEY!

Have you seen the landscape in the front of the beautiful home at 85532 Diamondhead Drive West? Congratulations to D.L.C. Builders (Dan and Linda Carter) on winning the commercial Garden of the Month.

Waiting for Spring? Stay warm, it's right around the corner.

DIAMOND SALE!

Fri., Sat. & Sun. Mar. 13-15

at

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1.17 ct. 32nd degree, masonic ring...\$2,400
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1.40 ct. center diamond ring w/wrap around emeralds & diamonds, platinum...\$4,500

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Answers about your knee or hip pain are as close as our free seminar. Learn one-on-one about causes of your problem and the latest treatments; plus tips about medicines, foods and exercise. Straight talk from us can be the first step on your road to recovery.

Join us on Tuesday, March 3 at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., or Tuesday, March 17 at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., in NorthShore Regional Medical Center's Gardenia Room. Park and enter through the Women's Center. Call 646-5014 to preregister.

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NorthShore
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MARKETOWN SHOPPING CENTER

Krewe of Diamondhead officers

Officers of the Krewe of Diamondhead are, seated from left, Captain Benny Mistretta and Social Lieutenant Clarice Gustin; standing, Publicity Lieutenant Hilda Bourg, Parade Lieutenant Chris Arnos, President Jerry Reshew, Treasurer Jerry Bourg, Ways and Means Lieutenant Jim Kasper and Secretary Nell Dennis.

Charles Johnson Sr., 1989

Queen Dot Hoskins, 1991

Queen Evelyn Kibler, 1992

King Jerry Reshew and Queen

Gertrude Waddington, 1992 King

Paul Snemeyer and Queen Gisela

Rainey, 1994 King Bill Bahner

and Queen Billie Bahner, 1995

King Henry Kibler and Queen

Lou Lamendola, 1996 Queen

Alice Burkhardt; 1997 King

Edward Rosenhauer and Queen

Elaine Connelly and Gisela Rainey

1998 King Jim Kasper and Queen

Clarice Gustin.

The ballroom was decorated with an eight-foot silhouette of a maestro framed in gold lame, with life-size silhouettes of musicians playing from the perimeter. A black grand piano with candelabra was placed in the center of each table with the sheet music "Music Maestro, Please '98" in the holder. The pianos were elevated on a stand draped in gold lame, surrounded by iridescent garland and beads. The royalty table featured a glittered version of the grand piano.

The ball decoration committee was chaired by Mrs. Jacqueline Rosenhauer and assisted by Edward Rosenhauer. Elaine Connelly and Gisela Rainey were on the set-up committee.

Past Krewe of Diamondhead

monarchs in attendance were

1976 King Joe Salvatore; 1980

Queen Lee Frediani; 1983

Queen Hilda Bourg; 1984 King

Jerry Bourg, and Queen Loraine Heier; 1985 King Vincent

Almerico Sr.; 1986 King Clifford

Satterlee and Queen Laura Al-

merico; 1987 King Stanley

Robert and Queen Massie

Swartzendruber; 1988 King

Charles Johnson Sr.

and Queen Evelyn Kibler.

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and Queen Evelyn Kibler.

Hancock County Vo-Tech Center celebrates anniversary

Monday, Feb. 9, the Hancock County Vocational Technical Center celebrated its 25th anniversary and National Vocational Education Week by hosting an open house for area businesses.

The center, constructed in 1973 as a result of a joint effort by the people of Hancock County, Pearl River Community College, and the state Department of Education, was turned over to the Hancock County School District in July 1991.

The Vocational-Technical Center offers occupational training programs designed to prepare students for entry in a chosen field of work at an advanced beginners' level or to provide fundamental skills which will assist those students who continue with vo-tech training at the post-secondary level.

Course offerings include agriscience, auto mechanics, building trades, business technology, child care, diversified

technology, drafting, food services, health occupations, metal trades and welding. Students from the Bay-Waveland School District also use this facility.

Recently the Food Services program held its grand opening of the Hungry Hawks Cafe', a small dining area open to 100 students each Thursday during lunch. The cafe' provides food service students with practical experience in preparing and serving food. This reinforces the lessons learned during basic classroom instruction.

In addition, WLOX-TV 13 recently highlighted The Hawks Nest, a daycare center for children age 3 and 4 whose parents work for the Hancock County School District. Vo-tech students participating in the Child Care program receive basic training in child development directed toward the management of or employment in a child care center. This in-house daycare center provides students with unparalleled hands-on training.

Course offerings include agriscience, auto mechanics, building trades, business technology, child care, diversified



Board members

Board members Tony Caston, left, Larry Peterson, middle, and Cheryl Bennett, right, open gifts from students at Charles B. Murphy Elementary School.

Hancock County Board of Education visits schools

On Wednesday, Feb. 11, the Hancock County Board of Education toured each school in the district. The first stop was Charles B. Murphy Elementary School in Pearlington where several classes presented board members with a small gift and numerous hand-made Valentine cards.

At the next school, Gulfview Elementary in Lakeshore, board members received a first-hand look at the construction of a four-classroom addition and new cafeteria. Also, they visited students in the media lab to see how technology is being effectively integrated into the classroom.

While visiting the Hancock County Vocational Technical Center, board members saw students engaged in conversation with various colleges and businesses during a school Career Fair. In addition, the Board of Education enjoyed an open exchange of ideas and suggestions during lunch with Student Council members from Hancock High School.

This positive interaction with the elected representatives of the student body prompted an invitation from the Board for a Student Council liaison to present an overview of high school activities during the first few minutes of each month's scheduled board meeting.

The final stop was Hancock North Central Elementary in Pass Christian where board members saw a large display of a model town that was constructed by students.

Also, the board was pleased to see kindergarten teachers using student nap time to coordinate upcoming kindergarten activities.

At the end of the day, board members all agreed that visiting schools is an important part of their continued commitment to excellence in the Hancock County School District.

In addition, Board President Cheryl Bennett said, "The opportunity to spend time getting a first-hand look at the learning that is taking place in our classrooms gives the board an opportunity to better understand the many innovative teacher-student activities that are occurring in the classrooms on a daily basis."

Hope Haven benefit

There will be a St. Pat's Day Poker Run Sunday, March 15, starting 10 a.m. (registration at 9 a.m. at \$10 per bike) beginning at Casino Magic Biloxi and ending in Diamondhead at Robert's Food and Spirits at 2 p.m.

Proceeds benefit Hope Haven.

As of the end of February, more than 400 bikers were already registered to ride.

Contact Robert Henley at 255-8887.

Voices of Hope Festival reset

The Voices of Hope Festival has been rescheduled to Saturday, April 4, Connie Heitzmann reports.

The festival, originally set for last Saturday, had to be rescheduled because of weather.

Heitzmann said, "We are really touched that God decided to give all the planners, supporters and participants a nice rest before the big festival."

A schedule for the festival will be posted on the Bay St. Louis City Hall door and at the Bay Depot.

For further information, contact Heitzmann at 467-1892, 467-5158, or bheitz at datasync.com.

Presentation

Philip Moran, president of the Hancock County Board of Supervisors, presents Al Bourgeois, Vo-Tech Center director, with a proclamation recognizing the importance of vocational education in Hancock County. Terry Randolph, superintendent of education for Hancock Schools, and Rocky Pullman, District 2 supervisor, watch the presentation.

Phone book recycling effort successful

BY ED LEPOMA

Area schools collected 7,566 telephone books for recycling and shared \$2,422 of more than \$22,000 in monies distributed among schools in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties.

Participating area students were invited to last month's Board of Supervisors meeting to receive their share of the prize money from the collection competition.

North Bay Elementary students led the pack, collecting 2,333 books and earning \$747 in prize money. Second was Hancock North Central Elementary, collecting 1,260 books and earning \$403.

Collections by other schools were:

Bay Catholic, 1,233 books, \$395; Bay Middle School, 1,028 books, \$329; St. Clare Elementary, 833 books, \$267; Diamondhead Academy, 376 books, 120; Waveland Elementary, 343 books, \$110; Bay High School, 160 books, \$51.



Thanking students

Bay Catholic Elementary was among area schools collecting prizes recently in the annual tri-county telephone recycling competition. Cindy Vernon, Executive Director Cindy Vernon; Amy Corr, Hancock County Chamber of Commerce executive director; and Mark Williams, executive director of BellSouth, who is also a member of the Chamber's board of directors.

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**Croft Institute
offers study
abroad
program to
teachers**

Sixteen Mississippi teachers interested in teaching their students more about the global community will be selected to travel to the Czech Republic and Slovakia this summer, thanks to funding from the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program and the Croft Institute for International Studies at the University of Mississippi.

The two are funding a once-in-a-lifetime kind of trip for Mississippi teachers to learn more about Eastern Europe. The month-long trip begins May 28.

The deadline for application is March 15, and participating teachers will earn six hours of graduate credit.

The Fulbright-Hays Group is contributing to \$56,000 in federal funds for "teaching About Eastern Europe" European Studies Curriculum Project in the Czech Republic and Slovakia for Mississippi Educators."

Once component of the new Croft Institute is offering training and providing necessary resources to assist in integrating international studies in K-12 curricula. Selected teachers for this first program abroad will be provided instruction, field study and cultural activities.

Elementary or secondary social studies teachers in the public or private sector are eligible to apply.

Participants will only be responsible for personal expenses, passport and visa fees, inoculations and other health care related to travel.

They must also have a valid passport, be able to document good health and provide proof of health insurance coverage for travel abroad.

Applicants will be selected on the strengths of their application, project proposal, evidence of ability to work productively, recommendations and support from school administrators.

For information, call Dr. Leslie Jeannerson, project coordinator, at (601) 232-5955.

**Wildlife
Federation
honors
volunteers**

On March 12, the Mississippi Wildlife Federation honors 15 of the state's most outstanding conservationists at its 38th Conservation Achievement Awards Program.

The event, held at Primos Northgate Convention Hall in Jackson, served to recognize the efforts of Mississippians to protect the state's wildlife and natural resources during 1997.

"The contributions these special people make can be seen every day around the state. They are devoted to working with children, restoring habitat and simply taking care of the land. We are so proud of them and are looking forward to honoring them for all they've done," said Lonnie Bailey of Greenwood, MWF president.

Mark Van Putten, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, is keynote speaker for the event. Van Putten, an attorney and law professor has been active in the conservation movement for over two decades.

MWF will give awards in 11 categories specific to the winners' particular volunteer or professional interests. The Federation's top award, given for lifelong dedication to conservation in Mississippi is the Conservationist of the Year Award which will go to Hollis Ishee of Grenada.

Through his work as a biologist and forester, Ishee has been instrumental in coordinating wildlife and fisheries management programs around Grenada and Enid Lakes.

Volunteer educator Thomas Williams of Bay St. Louis will be honored as Hunter Safety Volunteer Instructor of the Year.

Since becoming a certified instructor several years ago, Williams has assembled a "staff" of instructors to round out the Hunter Safety classes he teaches in the Bay St. Louis area. His devotion to this important safety program led him to ensure all his fellow hunting club members were Hunter Safety certified.

IT TOOK A SMART PHONE TO RETHINK LOCAL CALLING.

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& Alarm
1213 Bienville Blvd.
672-0894

Pascagoula
Advanced Car Audio
2030 Market Street
762-0310

Moss Point
CDE Integrated
Systems, Inc.
7530 Highway 63
Suite #1
474-7722

Gulfport
Gorilla Carwash
2039 E. Pass Road
696-5848

Gulfport
Advanced Car Audio
315 Pass Road
867-7006

Biloxi - DIGIPH PCS
2650 Beach Boulevard
Edgewater Village
388-4499

Take A Night Out

Casino Magic

Entertainment

March-June
Pure Gold ('50's and '60's Tribute Band)
Tuesday-Saturday, 8 and 10:30 p.m. in the main lobby
Sundays at 6 and 8:30 p.m. in the main lobby
Shows free.
Special concert: Regis Philbin of "Live with Regis & Kathie Lee"
Friday, March 27
9 p.m. in the Magic Entertainment Complex
Tickets: \$15, \$20 and \$25
Available at Casino Magic Gift Shop or Ticketmaster 1-800-5-MAGIC-5
For entertainment updates, call The Magical Entertainment Hotline at 1-800-5-MAGIC-5, ext. 4015.

March Happenings

BAY ST. LOUIS
Tonight, choose a car instead of a channel. The Choice Car Giveaway continues during the month of March. Ten finalists will be drawn Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 9 p.m. All finalists receive a chance to win a 1998 automobile (Sebring convertible, a Mercedes C230 or a bright red Dodge Durango). All finalists will receive a chance to win the car of their choice.

Immediately following the finalist drawing, all finalists pick a key Saturday. The key that turns on the TV wins the car of their choice. All other finalists will receive \$100. A total of six cars will be won. Promotion ends March 28. See Magic Money Players Club for details.

Our seats are so hot, they're scalding.

Every Thursday, 5-11 p.m., a table or slot player will be randomly selected every 15 minutes. The winner can choose either \$100 cash or 100 free pulls on the \$100,000 Free Wishes slot machine. Who knows, you could be in the lucky hot seat?

Double points Tuesdays
Every Tuesday, except March 31, Magic Money Players Club members will earn double points on their card as they play. If you are not a member of the Magic Money Players Club, sign up today. Membership is free.

Sugar Busters welcome at Casino Magic Bay St. Louis.

Casino Magic Bay St. Louis will offer its guests Sugar Buster-friendly meals at all food venues, including The Amazing Randolph's, Torgy's on the Green, Cafe' Magic and Abracadabra's Buffet. Buffet items change daily and a meal guide is available at the hostess station to aid dieters. Each item on the buffet is clearly marked with the symbol of a sugar cube with a red circle and a line through it.

Jackpot winners can win more than once.

Every time you win a jackpot of \$500 or more on slots, or a \$400 winning keno ticket, you're eligible for \$5,000 Jackpot Winners' Party Giveaway. The party is Monday, March 23, 6:30-8 p.m.

Guests enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, all while listening to the music of Davis and Sax. Drawings for \$5,000 will be held at 8 p.m. in the entertainment complex. Two people will win \$500, one person will win \$1,000 and one person will win \$3,000.

In March it's Pure Gold. Not only do guests love to hear the '50s and '60s sounds of Pure Gold, the band—they will love the pure gold Easter egg give-away. Casino Magic, in conjunction with WRNO, 99.5 radio will give away not one, but two pure gold Easter eggs which will include an ounce of pure gold, Gold Brick candy and a WRNO T-shirt and cap.

Registration boxes for the promotion are at the casino through March 28. Registration is free; however, winners must be present to win. Drawing will be Saturday, March 28 at WRNO's live remote broadcast from the casino.

Tournaments

Mondays, 1 p.m.
Cash Bonus Freeroll Tournament

\$20 hours of play to qualify. Wednesdays, 7 p.m.
Half 7 Card Stud & Half Hold'em Tournament.

Play begins at 7 p.m.
Max win based on prize pool.
Cost: \$15 buy-in, \$10 re-buy.
Bounty Hunters' Tournament on Thursdays.

Half Hold'em Half Omaha Starts at noon.

Max win based on prize pool.
Cost: \$15 buy-in, \$10 re-buy.

Half Hold'em Half Stud.

Play begins at 6 p.m. in the poker room. Max win based on tournament entries. Cost: \$20 re-buy. Five hours play required to qualify.

Charity Slot Tournament April 13

Benefiting Hope Haven

Registration 9-11 a.m. in main lobby.

First round begins at noon \$1,000 in cash prizes.

Call 1-800-5-MAGIC-5 for information.

Golf Tournaments:

APRIL

The Magic Ditka-Casino

Magic Celebrity Golf Class

April 3 and 4 at The Bridges

Golf Resort at Casino Magic

Benefiting the Make-A-Wish

Foundation of Mississippi.

For details, call 1-800-5-MAGIC-5, ext. 4358

MAY

The Brett Favre-Casino

Magic Golf Classic

May 8-10 The Bridges Golf

Resort at Casino Magic

Benefiting the Brett Favre

Foundation.

For details, call 1-800-5-MAGIC-5

Carlin performs at Biloxi Grand March 19 and 20

Grand Casino

BILOXI AND GULFPORT

Calypso Water Taxi

Grand Casino Gulfport and Biloxi have added another amenity to delight guests who will now have another way to get from one property to the other.

The Calypso Water Taxi Service is available to transport guests and the public between the two Grand Casino properties.

Operating seven days a week, the Calypso Water Taxi departs Gulfport at 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 p.m.

Departures from Biloxi are 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 p.m. and midnight.

Tickets are purchased on board, and it is suggested that passengers arrive at the dock area no later than 15 minutes prior to scheduled departure.

The completely enclosed, climate-controlled Breaux 54 is certified to carry 49 passengers. Each trip takes approximately 45 minutes. The fare is \$5 per person each way. Light refreshments are available for a nominal fee.

Entertainment

GULFPORT

CARNIVAL LOUNGE

Grand new show lounge featuring top national touring show bands.

TFC

Now through March 15 Stellar dance band. Magnetic stage presence, impressive choreography and costumes. Per-

formance

For details, call 1-800-5-MAGIC-5

formed with Smokey Robinson, Patti LaBelle.

Domino

March 17-22

Variety showband.

BILOXI

GRAND THEATRE

MotorCity Rhythm & Blues

Greg Thompson Productions presents a non-stop ride of rockin' rhythm & blues.

Filled with music, never-miss-a-step dancing, and the quest of one young man to find

soul.

MotorCity is an explosive re-

livel of the downtown sounds of

yesteryear.

Show times for MotorCity

Rhythm & Blues are:

Mondays, 7 p.m.

Tuesdays, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Wednesdays, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Thursdays, no show.

Fridays, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Saturdays, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

10 p.m.

Sundays, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

For information, call 1-800-WIN-2-WIN

MotorCity Rhythm & Blues performance canceled the following dates:

The Woody Herman Orchestra

March 12, 2:30 and 7 p.m.

Tribute to the big band era

Tickets \$15.

George Carlin

March 19-20, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets \$25/floor, \$20

balcony

Clin Black

April 9-10, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets \$35/floor, \$30

balcony

Sorbonne Orchestra

April 13, 8 p.m.

Tickets TBA

Tom Jones

May 28-29, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets \$30/floor,

\$25/balcony

Bill Cosby

June 19, 7:30 p.m. and 9:30

p.m.

Tickets \$35/floor, \$25

balcony

Entertainment

1st Choice Carpet Cleaning

\$18.49

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Olé! Grand Opening
Manaca Mexican Restaurant

ORDER 1 CHIMICHANGA

DINNER & GET THE SECOND

1/2 PRICE!

Regular priced \$7.50

Offer expires 3/8/98

Special not valid with any other discounts

KIDS EAT FREE WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Kids 9 & under receive 1 child meal with the purchase of an adult meal. Limit 2 kids meals per 2 adult purchases. Wednesday night kid special not valid with another coupon or special.

Serving the

Finest

• Seafood •

• Italian •

• Steaks •

Try our

House Specialty

with our

Famous

Noble House

Sauce

Come in for the

Best

Irish Coffee

on the Coast!

Ladies Night

Thursday 7-9

466-0088

Open

Tues. - Sat. 5-11PM

Sun. 11-7

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TONIGHT,
CHOOSE A CAR
INSTEAD OF A CHANNEL.

Enter to win your choice of a brand new
Mercedes C230, Dodge Durango or
Chrysler Sebring Convertible in our
Choice Car Giveaway!

It's your choice! Just sign up at the

Magic Money Players Club now through

March 28th for your chance to win!

10 finalists will be chosen every

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and

the drawings for the big winners will be held on

Saturdays following the finalist drawing.

Pick up one FREE entry per visit to

BUSINESS NEWS

January home sales remain strong

While rainy days, bothersome cold and the flu kept some Mississippians down last month, Mississippi home sales posted their strongest January in three years.

January's Mississippi Home Sales Report, released by the Mississippi Association of Realtors (MAR), shows that Mississippi's Realtors sold 745 homes last month, an increase of 58 units over the same months last year and up 51 units over January 1996.

MAR president Cynthia S.

Joachim, CRS, CRB, GRL, CIPS, ABR of Biloxi, thinks that continued economic growth is the main factor contributing to the longevity of Mississippi's thriving real estate market.

Reports show that throughout the state, Mississippi businesses are expanding, new businesses are being built and existing companies are relocating to the state. This progress has resulted in continued consumer confidence and a steady real es-

tate market.

Joachim adds that while January's Mississippi home sales numbers do show a drop from December's, the first of the year is almost always the slowest period for home sales. "This seasonal dip in winter home sales is absolutely normal," she says.

Statewide Statistics

Total homes sold: January 1998, 745; December 1997, 1,025; January 1997, 687; year-to-date, 745.

January's Home Sales Report also shows that the smaller markets in the state showed the largest increases, with Oxford showing a 60 percent increase in home sales over the same month last year and Grenada showing a 50 percent increase.

The state's two largest markets, Jackson and the Gulf Coast, closed 229 and 121 units in January, respectively, with Jackson showing a 38-unit increase over last 1997.

The Association's Home Sales Report also reveals that the average selling price for January was \$100,000. The Tupelo area reported the highest average home sales price at \$131,515, while Grenada claimed the second highest at \$126,125.

The Mississippi Association of Realtors is the voice of real es-

tate in Mississippi, representing 4,200 real estate professionals active in all phases of brokerage, development, appraisal and property management.

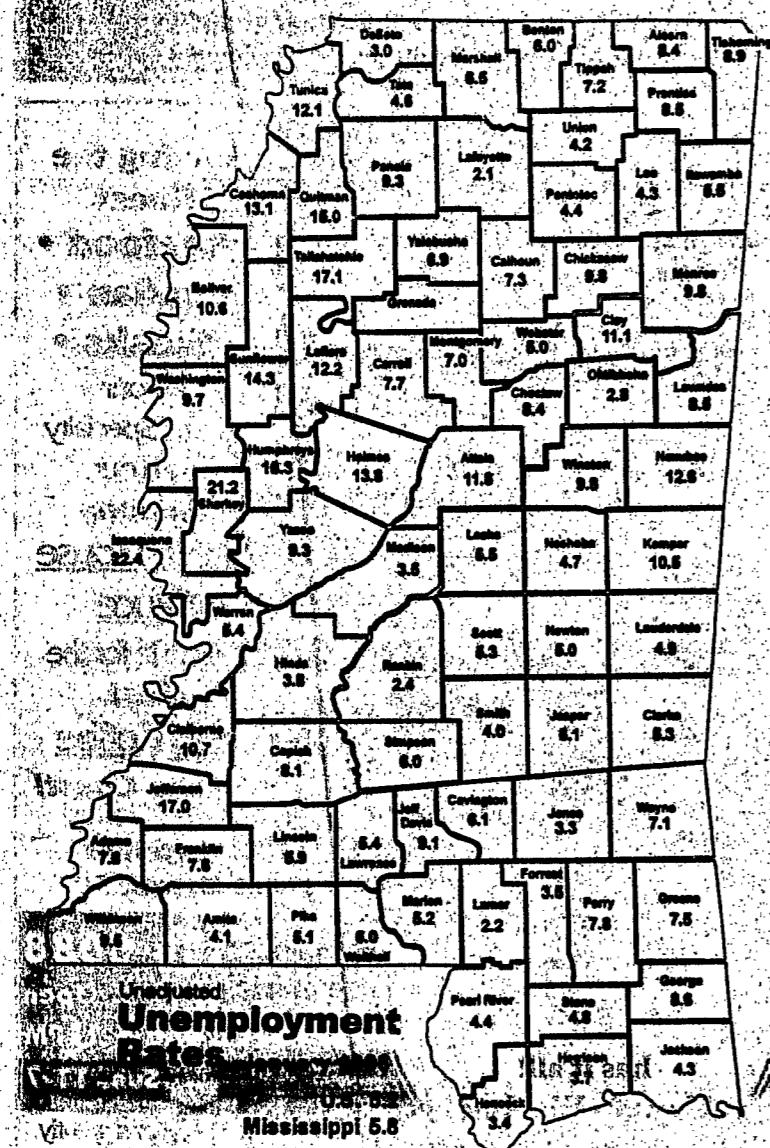
Local Statistics

These statistics reflect residential sales of houses, condominiums and townhomes by Realtors:

Gulf Coast, total homes sold: January 1998, 121; December 1997, 229; January 1997, 137; year-to-date, 121.

Gulf Coast, average selling price: January 1998, \$89,428; December 1997, \$98,836; January 1997, \$85,275; year-to-date, \$89,428.

The Gulf Coast area includes Gulfport, Pass Christian, Bay St. Louis, Waveland, Biloxi and Ocean Springs.



Unemployment rate lowest in more than two decades

Mississippi recorded its lowest annual unemployment in more than two decades in 1997 averaging a 5.7% unemployment rate, according to the Mississippi Employment Security Commission (MESC).

MESC Executive Director Thomas E. Lord announced that the 1997 rate was the lowest in the state since 1974 when the rate stood at 4.6%.

Lord attributed the low rate to two major employment trends. One being the creation since 1993 of approximately 30,000 jobs directly attributed to the casino industry, and the other being that the manufacturing sector with the exception of the apparel industry has remained steady.

The approximately 30,000 total casino jobs does not include employment created indirectly by the casino industry, such as jobs at motels, hotels and restaurants, Lord said.

"We are pleased to be able to announce this economic improvement in Mississippi and we are very optimistic about the future," Lord said.

Lafayette County led the state in employment in 1997 recording an annual unemployment rate of 2.3% while Jefferson County had the highest annual unemployment rate of 15.5%, records showed. The rates in 1997 for other selected counties were: DeSoto with 3.3%, Harrison 4.6%, Hinds 4.0%, Jackson 5.3%, Lauderdale 5.1%, and Rankin 2.5%.

The 1997 numbers continue a downward spiral in the unemployment rate in Mississippi which have fallen annually the last five years. Lord said the state unemployment rate still remained above the national average for 1997 which was 4.9%.

In January, the unemployment rate rose slightly from the previous month, but still remained below the January, 1997 rate. The January increase was due to seasonal layoffs in agriculture and retail trade following the holiday season, according to MESC labor market analyst Bill McNeese. Also contributing to the increase, he said, was the fact that inclement weather curtailed outdoor work such as forestry, agriculture and construction during January.

Local rates of unemployment ranged from a low of 2.1% in Lafayette County to a high of 22.4% in Issaquena County, McNeese said. He predicted that conditions should change only slightly in February because similar seasonal influences remain.

Nolan honored

Betsy Nolan took top honors at the Century 21 Mid-South Region annual awards banquet, winning Top Producer of commissions, Gold Associate Award, Masters Club Ruby Award and special recognition for outstanding performance. Nolan has been a realtor with Century 21 of Diamondhead for the past three years.

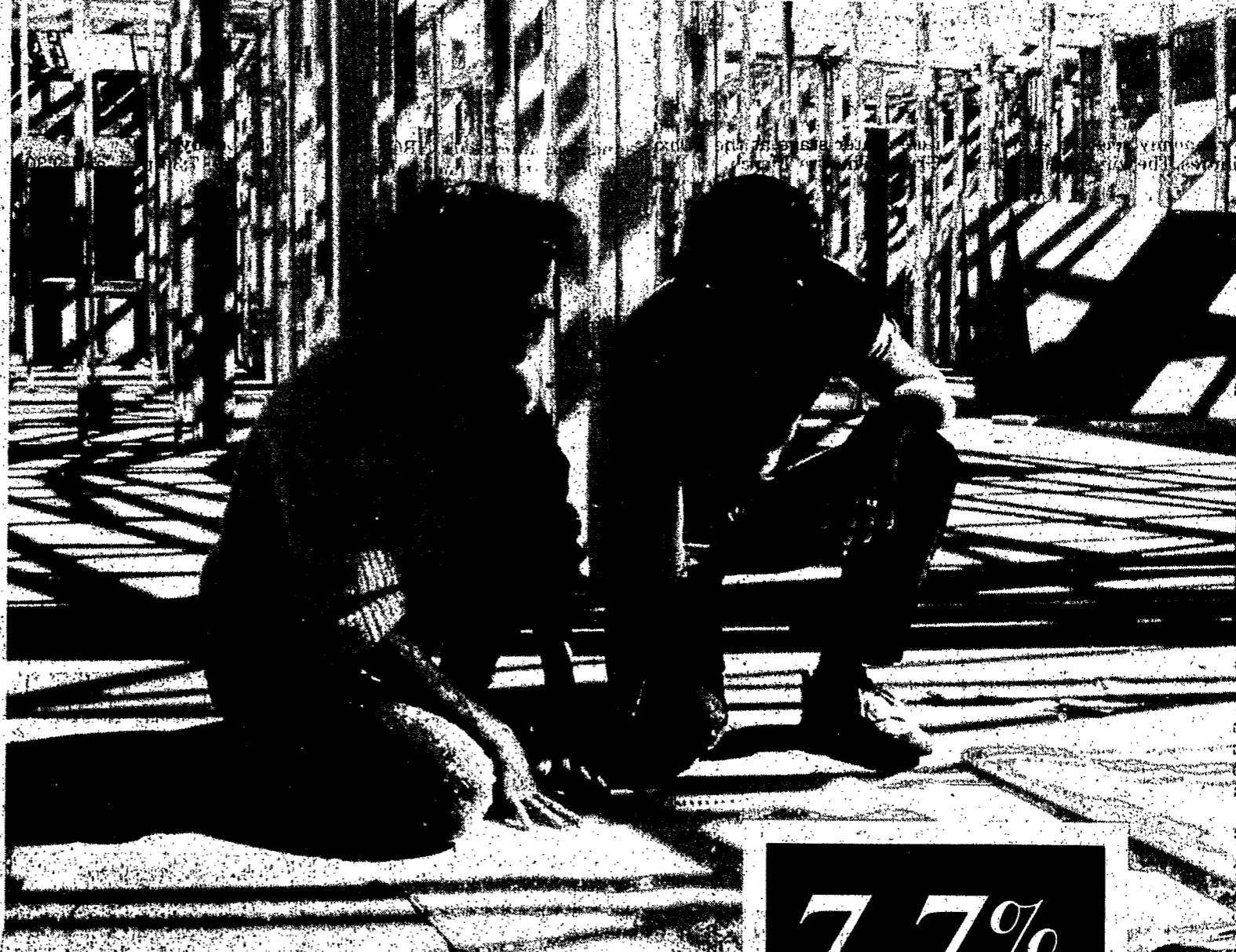
The Century 21 of Diamondhead office won the prestigious Quality Service Award for superior performance. Less than three percent of the Century 21 offices, worldwide, receive this award.

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66 Child Care

CHILD CARE IN MY HOME, 24 HRS, a day, 5 days a week. 255-1293.

CHILD CARE IN MY DIAMONHEAD home. Degree in early childhood education. 2555-5323.

73 Help Wanted

TAKING APPLICATIONS for Nursing Assistant's, apply in person Hotel Reed Nursing Center, 400 North Beach Blvd., B.S.L. 467-5462.

TAKING APPLICATIONS for Part-time baker, apply in person Hotel Reed Nursing Center, 400 North Beach Blvd., B.S.L. 467-5462.

THE CITY OF BAY ST. LOUIS is accepting applications for the position of Clerk of Council. The ideal candidate will have excellent typing, computer and note taking skills. Good written and verbal communication skills and the ability to handle multiple tasks are essential. The salary range for the position is \$18,000-\$22,000, dependent upon qualifications. An application packet may be obtained at City Hall Annex, 111 Court Street, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520. Application deadline is March 23, 1998.

TIRE TOWN TEAM: One of South Louisiana & Mississippi's leading independent tire dealer's has career opportunity for you. If you are an experienced tire technician, we want to talk to you. We offer a very competitive compensation program. 342 Hwy 90, Waveland. Call Joe, 467-0095. Tire Town is an Equal Opportunity Employer encouraging qualified females and minorities to apply.

TRUCK DRIVER NEEDED WITH CDL 255-9727.

WANTED: FULL-TIME, MUST BE strong hard worker not afraid of a shovel or heavy lifting! Ph: days, 255-0177, nights 463-9533.

WANTED: PERSON TO WRITE BAIL BONDS. Must be 21 years old, no criminal record & professional appearance. Call between 10am-4pm, Monday-Friday only. Gene Newman, 601-948-2245.

WANTED SOMEONE TO MAINTAIN flower bed, weeding & some planting. 255-1852.

EXPERIENCED BURGLAR/FIRE ALARM installer or will train with training program; benefits, good coding recording equipment. 467-0030.

EXPERIENCED CDL TRUCK DRIVER needed Tuesday-Saturday. Apply in person Monday-Friday, 9-3. Must have insurance. Coast Savage, 942 Hwy 90, Waveland.

E-Z-SERVE IS LOOKING for hardworking individuals for full & part-time sales associates. Good pay, excellent benefits & flexible hours. Please apply at 1098 Hwy 90, BSL, Wed., March 18, 9am-3pm.

FRIENDLY CASHIERS WITH SMILING faces. Daily Open Hwy 90 Waveland 467-2211.

FULL-TIME BOOKKEEPER/SECRETARY: Peachtree/Windows 95. Post all general ledgers. Applications at "Home Haven", 128 Court St., Bay St. Louis.

GREAT SECOND INCOME! EARN \$100 - \$1000 weekly. Work from home/office stuffing envelopes. FREE postage, supplies. Simple, profitnable. Rush self addressed stamped envelope to: HOME BASED EMPLOYERS OF AMERICA, P.O. BOX 78097, DEPT. ECHO, NASHVILLE, TENN. 37207-0997.

PART-FULL-TIME HELPERS NEEDED FOR V/C WORK, must have some experience with duct work and change out. Pay based on experience. 255-1786.

HELP WANTED: Eam up to \$500 per week assembling products at home. No experience. INFO 1-504-646-1700 DERT, MS-299.

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS FOR BRICK-LAYING Instructor. Will teach students ages 16-24. Must have high school diploma or GED and 3 years experience. Experienced retirees welcome to apply. Applications taken M-F, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Gulfport Job Corps Center, 3300 20th St., Gulfport, MS 39501. EO/E/M/F/D/V.

LGE. FAB CO. IN ST. BERNARD Parish: Now Hiring! Tigertech combo welders; welders/helpers. Pipefitters (stainless). Must pass BG test. GNOECO a plus. Field and shop work. Day and night shift. 504-278-3800.

LOCKING FOR MANAGEMENT TRAINEE: Must have people skills and ambitious worker. Salary inquiries only. Fax requests to 501-822-0757.

Maintenance worker needed: High school diploma or GED and three years experience in plumbing, HVAC, carpentry, electrical required. Need valid drivers license (cdl preferred) and a good driving record. Applications taken M-F, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Gulfport Job Corps Center, 3300 20th St., Gulfport, MS 39501. EO/E/M/F/D/V.

OPENING IN MARCH: THE BLUE PARROT, an exciting tropical restaurant & night club on the bay. Hiring all positions. Applications available at 200 So. Beach Blvd., BSL, 9am-4pm, M-F.

PERSONAL CARE NEEDED FOR handicapped male, also light housekeeping. 467-2271.

RECORDS CLERK NEEDED: High School Diploma or GED and six months records keeping/secretarial experience required. Must have computer and typing skills. Applications taken M-F, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Gulfport Job Corps Center, 3300 20th St., Gulfport, MS 39501. EO/E/M/F/D/V.

STREET SWINGER FOR GROWING SA-LOH IN DIAMONHEAD: Call 255-0065.

TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR LPN'S, apply in person Hotel Reed Nursing Center, 400 North Beach Blvd., B.S.L. 467-5462.

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THE FAMILY DREAM HOME 20x76 4½, the largest of our dream homes featuring a see thru fireplace, top quality GE Appliance packages and Magnavox home security system. Call 888-208-3800.

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150 Unfam. Houses For Rent

2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH BRICK HOME with fireplace, \$500/mo. 467-5912.

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH HOUSE w/stove. Less than 1 year old, \$625. 467-0030.

FOR RENT: 2 bedroom waterfront home, all electric, \$400/month, \$400/month. Call 504-781-3999, 504-849-0528.

LOOKING FOR A RENTAL? CALL US! Usman Mollere Realty Incorporated. 467-5454.

SCENIC VIEW OF RIVER: 3 BR/2 BA, cent. a/c, total electric, \$650/mo. plus deposit. 467-7142.

151 Furn. Houses For Rent

WAVELAND 2BR/1BA, FURNISHED, on beach, \$600/month, \$600/deposit. 504-737-6476.

WAVELAND, BAYSIDE PARK, CLEAN furnished 1 room efficiency cottage. Pet free environment. Deposit \$150; Rent \$225 per month. Call 452-9385, leave message.

156 Lots/Acreage

9 TO 16 ACRE TRACTS, 12 MILES East of Picayune on paved road. No mobile homes. \$25,996, \$1,000 down, \$300/mo. 467-6348.

**** CLERMONT HARBOR, THE LAKES S/D, 10 MINUTES from Wesson man Co., & US 90 shopping, beautiful wooded 3+ acre lots beside Hwy beach, no trailers, \$12,000. Firsthouse under construction. Cuffy Road off N. Railroad Ave. between Clermont & Lakeshore rail. crossings. 466-0688.

LARGE LOT, 232'x127', on Amika Drive, Diamondhead. Appraised at \$34,000. Anxious to sell, make offer. 467-6159.

TWO WATERFRONT LOTS, 150'x150', front on Jourdan River w/12'x4' mobile home, large cabana, pump house, pier, fenced, central, sewer, boat launch. \$25,500 owner financing at 9% for 15 years with \$4,500 down. Payments approx. \$254/mo. plus taxes, insurance, sewer & garbage. 463-0043, 467-3032.

WATERFRONT LOT-OLD LAZY RIVER ROAD, ½ acre, ready to build, \$26,800. Washington St. near Bay. Marina 50' x 200' \$6,500. 467-2545/504-626-0977.

158 Commercial Property

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159 Houses For Sale

1045 WASHINGTON ST. ON 1/2 ACRE of land. Asking \$80,000. Owner will finance with \$25,000 down. Call 467-1117.

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Permit 10/17/87-10/17/87

General Contractor

Recreational Computer Records

Road Maintenance Fund

Bridge Construction Fund

Seawall Construction

Total

Permit 10/17/87-10/17/87

General County Fund

Recreational Computer Records

Road Maintenance Fund

Bridge Construction Fund

Total

GENERAL COUNTY

PAVILION CLEARING

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PAVILION CLEARING

Permit 10/17/87-10/17/87

General Contractor

Re

Casino

the study will look at the permitting process, the direct impact of casinos on coastal waters, as well as the impact of associated development that has come along with the growing casino industry.

The Army's Civil Works staff, the South Atlantic Division staff, and the Mobile District Corps of Engineers staff, will be called to the meeting, along with certain members of the

EPA and Department of Interior staffs, Davis said.

News of the impending study had Hancock County Port and Harbor officials, casino developers, and county supervisors scurrying to determine whether both giant casino projects might be stalled for ever how long it would take to complete the study. Initial estimates by Davis was that the study could take as long as two years to

complete.

At Monday's meeting of the Port and Harbor Commission, Executive Director Hal Walters said he had the Section 10 permit (from the Corps of Engineers) in hand, and the Board had 30 days to sign and return it.

Walters said the validity of the permit was in question because of the memorandum

Continued from Page 1

issued by Davis, but the P&H was among agencies trying to get further clarification of the memo.

Board of Supervisors President Philip Moran and District 4 Supervisor Steve Seymour just happened to be in Washington, D.C. this week, along with some Harrison County supervisors and a delegation from the Gulf Regional Planning Commission, and they appealed directly to Sen. Trent Lott to determine quickly the ramifications of the impending study.

Lott's press secretary, Liz Mavar, said, "The Senator has been apprised of the situation, and is looking into it. He's trying to get to the bottom of it."

Davis issued a memorandum on March 4, saying concerns raised by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of the Interior prompted him to order a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) because "substantial policy issues remain...and cumulative effects have not been adequately addressed."

The Davis memo was issued days after a Chancery Court Judge threw out a challenge against the Casino World project brought by environmentalists and citizens groups.

In that ruling, Judge J.N. Randall said the state Commission on Marine Resources "did, in fact, consider the cumulative impacts of these projects on the Bay of St. Louis."

Europe Cruises Corp. plans a \$200-million gambling resort on a 404-acre tract off the south Diamondhead exit of I-10. Plans call for two gambling barges on the north Bay of St. Louis, a 450-room hotel and related retail shops, a spa and sports entertainment center, a nine-hole golf course and a recreational vehicle park.

Just a short distance east, at the south end of the Kiln-DeLisle exit of I-10, Circus Circus of Las Vegas, in partnership with the Pine Hills Development Corp., proposes to build a \$300 million gambling/resort complex.

CECIL G. WOODS, JR.

Attorney at Law

228 868-8422

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of \$16,700. Engineering consultant John Campion of Garner, Russell and Associates had estimated the project would come in between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

The repair work was scheduled for later this year, but aldermen declared a state of emergency existed because of more damages were inflicted on the pier during the Feb. 15 storm. Tidelands monies will be used for the repair work.

In other business, aldermen selected Jimmy Gouras with Urban Planning Consultants, Inc., of Vicksburg to prepare the city's application for a

\$400,000 Community Development Block Grant. If approved, the funds will be used to refurbish the city's water towers.

Aldermen also selected Ms. Eddie Bigelow of Pass Christian as administrator of its 1998 Home Program, which improves houses where elderly and low-income residents are living.

City attorney Malcolm Jones will serve as the attorney of record for both programs.

Aldermen also passed a resolution urging "a multi-year reauthorization" of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency

Continued from Page 1

Act, known as the ISTEA program which funnels back to the states a portion of gasoline tax revenues for road and other transportation improvements.

McDonald explained that prior to adjournment last year, Congress enacted only a short-term extension of the program.

The mayor said the Gulf Coast Region of Harrison, Jackson and Hancock counties are experiencing rapid growth and development and needs the funds to keep up with infrastructure improvements needed to its transportation systems.

Bust

Corr said Grantham was charged with possession of an illegal substance with intent to distribute and driving on a suspended license. He is free on a \$75,500 bond, and an initial court date of April 7 has been set.

Mike Byrd is in charge of the investigation.

In another bust, Jacqueline A. Davis, 40, of Pass Christian,

was charged with two counts of prescription forgery following her arrest shortly after noon on Friday.

Corr said Davis allegedly called in a prescription for Escic and 10 milligrams of Stadol. A pharmacist at Kmart in Waveland became suspicious and alerted authorities.

Tommy Jennings of the NTF posed as a stock clerk while Da-

vis picked up the prescriptions. She was arrested as she left the store.

Jennings was assisted by Mike Hearty and Howard Parker of the Waveland Police Department.

Davis is free on \$5,000 bond. An April 7 court date has been set.

Jennings is in charge of the investigation.

Continued from Page 1

Plans for juvenile jail revised

TUPELO, Miss. (AP)—Plans for a new juvenile detention center in Lee County have been revised in the wake of a jailer's death.

"It's a shame that a tragedy has to get you back on track," said James Williams, president of the Tupelo City Council. "I would think it ought to go forward quickly."

The current six-bed detention center, where 20-year-old jailer Casey Harmon was fatally shot last week, was put in place as a temporary measure during the summer of 1994.

The proposed 52-bed facility, which will cost about \$2.4 million, was before the Tupelo council and the Lee County supervisors last spring. But a disagreement on how to fund operating expenses derailed the project.

Lee County Youth Court Judge James Floyd said he had talked with both county and city officials about moving the project along in the days before Harmon was killed.

"There's a positive desire by both agencies to get something done," Floyd said.

A 16-year-old is charged with capital murder in Harmon's death. Investigators say the teen-ager was being held on a shoplifting charge and was about to be released to the custody of his stepfather when he shot Harmon in the head with a .22-caliber revolver.

The teen, who smuggled the gun into the detention center, then escaped. He was later captured, along with two other teens also facing charges in the crime.

The juvenile accused of shooting Harmon was about to be released to his parents and was being held in a "buffer zone" at the juvenile detention center, Lee County Sheriff Harold Ray Presley said.

Often those who will be released quickly are held in the current detention center's two sally ports, double sets of locking doors meant to create a buffer zone between the jailers and the inmates.

The design for the proposed facility includes holding cells for juveniles who are going to be released immediately to their parents. The facility would have the same basic floorplan as the adult jail, with separate dormitory rooms, some with individual cells, monitored from a central control station.

Even before the new juve-

nile detention facility becomes a reality, officials are trying to take measures to make the existing facility safer.

Presley has suggested to Judge Floyd that youthful offenders slated for release to their parents be brought to the lobby of the adult jail, easing the burden on the detention center staff.

"If they aren't going to stay, they shouldn't be going to the detention center," Presley said.

The site for the proposed juvenile detention center was prepared during construction of the Lee County-Tupelo Adult Jail, which was completed in late July.

"The site's already fixed," said Billy Davis, president of the Lee County supervisors. "To me, the only thing to work out is the size, staffing and (per diem) payment."

The funding for building the detention center is in place, Presley said. The stumbling block seems to be fair assignment of operating costs.

The county board in March 1997 approved an agreement that would allow municipalities to house juvenile offenders

in the new facility for a daily charge, similar to the agreement to house adult prisoners in the new jail.

Tupelo council members said they were generally unhappy with the per diem system and noted some ambiguity in determining which juveniles were in the county's care or in a municipality's care.

Because municipal elections were approaching, the City Council in May 1997 tabled the measure for the incoming board's consideration.

There have been some recent discussions about the proposal with Mayor Glenn McCullough, but no formal council action has been taken.

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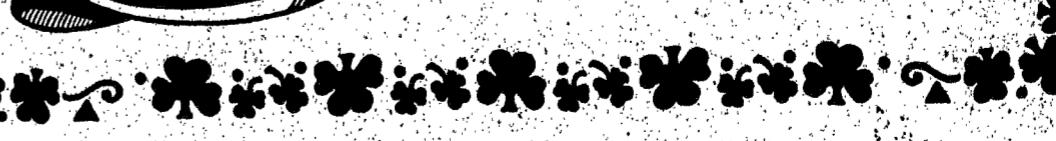
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Spring Car Care

- ✓ Tire maintenance
- ✓ Summertime maintenance tips
- ✓ How to protect your car's engine
- ✓ Answers about motor oil



A SEA COAST ECHO SPECIAL EDITION MARCH 12, 1998

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Tire maintenance is simple, inexpensive

One of the most neglected parts of an automobile—the tires—are actually among the easiest and most economical to maintain.

In fact, just a few minutes of attention each month will help ensure longer tire life and performance.

The key, experts agree, is to prevent problems before they occur. This is particularly true in the spring, when warmer weather entices people to embark on vacations or weekend getaways.

Proper tire maintenance also promotes traction, smoothness and a quieter ride.

Few of the maintenance procedures, such as inflation checks and visual inspections, can be done by the owner at

minimal cost.

Inflation pressure can be checked at service stations, usually for no charge. It is recommended that a tire pressure gauge be purchased (for approximately \$8), as service station equipment can be inaccurate or inconsistent. Visual inspections of the tires can be conducted for free at home.

Three other elements of tire maintenance—rotation, alignment and balancing—are generally performed by a mechanic or tire dealer as part of a vehicle's regular servicing.

Inflation pressure is the most important aspect of tire maintenance. Improperly inflated tires—whether overinflated or underinflated—result in irregular treadwear and poor gas mileage.

Experts recommend checking air pressure at least once a month with an accurate gauge when the tires are cold.

Recommended air pressures usually can be found in owners' manuals, although it's best to consult with the tire dealer or manufacturer if the vehicle's original tires have been replaced.

Improperly inflated tires will sometimes "squeal" around corners at normal speeds, or feel mushy during turns.

A tire is considered seriously underinflated or overinflated if it is four or more psi—pounds per square inch—off the recommended level.

Generally, tires lose about one psi each month. A spring-time tip: warmer temperatures will cause a rise in pressure of about one psi for every 10 degrees.

Visual inspections are im-

portant because they reveal irregular treadwear (one side may be more worn than the other), punctures or other outside damage, the amount of tread remaining on a tire, or even a pebble or stone lodged in the tread.

A simple test using a penny can help determine if a tire's tread is below the safe—or legal—limit. If Lincoln's head is fully visible after the penny has been placed in the tread, then the tire needs replacing.

A more conventional method is to check the wear bar indicators. These can be located by using the arrows on the sidewall as a guide. If the tread is the same height as the wear bar, the tire should be replaced.

Tires should be rotated every 7,000-10,000 miles, with city driving requiring the most frequent attention. Tire rotation extends a tire's life by balancing out the wear variances.

Treadwear can be more pronounced at wheel positions that carry more of the vehicle's weight.

Proper wheel alignment also ensures even treadwear, and may prevent suspension damage that could occur if neglected.

When a car is out of alignment—often caused by driving over potholes and on rough roads—it slightly alters the position of the tires, causing one part of the tire to wear more quickly than the other areas.

Uneven wear can also occur if the wheel and tires are out of balance. The latter is detected by a vibrating steering wheel, which usually becomes more pronounced at highway speeds.

Brake failure can often be prevented

Brake failure is the leading cause of motor accidents due to mechanical deficiencies. The vast majority of these failures can be traced to neglected maintenance.

Car Care Council offers this basic information to help owners better understand their vehicles' braking systems.

When you step on the brake pedal, you create friction that resists the wheels from turning. Eventually, friction causes the brake parts to wear out and require replacement. You can make your brakes wear better and keep repair costs down by using good driving habits.

When you stop, let the vehicle slow gradually instead of stopping suddenly. Never ride the brakes on long hills.

For maintenance, check the fluid level in the master cylinder once a month, and add heavy duty brake fluid if the level is low.

Be aware of the symptoms of brake trouble and seek the advice of a qualified technician when brakes act erratically. You cannot put a price tag on the security of knowing you have a good braking system under foot.

In order to take care of your car's braking system, you should understand it. Use the accompanying diagram to familiarize yourself with its major components.

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THE SEA COAST ECHO, SPRING CAR CARE, THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1988-3

Zeroing in on the current value of your automobile

Have you ever wondered what the current market value of your automobile really is?

Whether you are buying or selling a used car, or are simply curious, pinpointing a fair market value can be somewhat confusing. A dealer might suggest one price while newspaper ads might suggest a range of present.

And, although high and low book values are obtainable by the general public, the available sources are limited and inconvenient (e.g. the reference section of the library, some banks and credit unions, a savings and loan).

To alleviate the problem, a state-of-the-art computerized system has been introduced nationwide by National Automobile Data Service Inc., which makes information on current used auto and truck values readily accessible.

You simply dial 1-800-844-3300 on any touch-tone phone to activate the Auto Priceline service, follow the

simple instructions, and within an average of four minutes, you can obtain the current high and low values (that is the wholesale and retail values) of autos and trucks from 1975 to the present.

The data is systematically updated so it is always current, and the service includes a list of applicable vehicle options.

The fee for this service is \$2 per minute.

There are no additional distance toll charges. If a caller experiences any difficulty with the Auto Priceline, a customer service extension is available.

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Keep it clean

Proper way to wash and wax your vehicle

Ask anyone the proper way to wash a car. You'll be surprised to hear the different methods. Most of us learned from watching our parents. Unfortunately, we're usually not aware of the damage we do from improper washing and waxing.

Your car collects dirt just sitting outdoors. Rain makes it stick to paint like glue. It contains very fine particles of hard, gritty sand.

If you wash improperly, that grit will cause thousands of hair-like scratches in the paint.

They look like spider webs and are easily seen on darker colors

such as red, blue and black. It's

worse on sunny days or under fluorescent light.

If you dry your car with dusty towels, you'll cause even more scratching. Remember, every little scratch is a tiny groove

where a little paint was removed. The more scratching you do, the quicker your shine

will dull.

Do you frequently use one of

the common car waxes that

clean and polish your car in one

step? These formulations con-

tain polishing abrasives that

also remove a tiny bit of paint

each time they're used. Some

can actually make paint dull!

Most newer cars have a thin

clear coat over the color. If this

gets worn away by improper

care, the paint will never look

new again.

Proper care starts with cor-

rect washing procedures. Wait

for a day with little or no wind.

Always wash in shade and after

the paint surface is cool to the

touch. Use a hose and plenty of

water.

The last thing any motorist

wants during the hot summer

months is to be stranded on the

road because his or her car has

broken down. However, prob-

lems such as this can be easily

avoided if proper, year round,

maintenance is practiced.

It is often difficult to foresee

when your car needs attention,

but the following tips focus on

some of the aspects of automo-

tive maintenance that may re-

quire your attention.

If your engine is hard to

start, uses a lot of gas, is slug-

ish or smokes, have it checked

by a professional.

Make sure the cooling sys-

tem is performing properly and

check the antifreeze level.

Check the tire pressure and

tread.

Check the oil. It's not just a

lubricant, it also serves as an

engine coolant.

If your car's transmission

is noisy, or does it slip when you

shift gears? If so, have it

checked as soon as possible,

since transmission repairs can

become costly.

Check the hoses and belts

for signs of wear. If a hose or

belt fails, it can radically effect

a vital part of the motor.

Have the brakes checked if

they are making any noise or

are not performing as well as

they should.

Replace the windshield

wipers if they are streaking or

smearing.

Keeping your car in good con-

dition with periodic checkups

can increase its value as well

as its resale value. Money spent

now on maintenance may well

save you money down the road.

THE SEA COAST ECHO, SPRING CAR CARE, THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1998-5

Overheating

Prevent problems by checking cooling system, engine for leaks

When a cooling system fails, the engine overheats. And when a car overheats for very long, metal engine parts can be seriously damaged and require expensive repair.

Overheating can result when the coolant level is too low, or when there is a leak in the system. Sometimes just driving in stop-and-go traffic on a hot summer day with the air conditioner running is enough to overheat the engine.

Coolant loss

A low coolant level leads to overheating because there isn't enough fluid in the system to absorb engine heat.

The air in the system is that is absorbing these high temperatures in a poor heat conductor and won't do an effective job of transferring the heat to the radiator.

Cars with coolant recovery tanks have markings on the white plastic tank indicating where coolant levels should be when the car is running and when it's not. If the coolant level is low after repeated fillings, you probably have a leak in the system.

Coolant hose leaks

Hoses are the most likely source of leaks because they are structurally the weakest components of the cooling system.

Hoses must be flexible to absorb vibration, so they are made of rubber compounds. Rubber, unfortunately, is not as durable as metal.

Intense engine heat can harden and crack even the best rubber; oil can soften and swell it; the simple passage of time can break down its internal bonding; and electrochemical degradation can crack the tube.

In many instances, hose leaks occur at faulty connections to the inlet and outlet pipes. Make certain the hose clamps are secure.

When replacing a hose, it's also a good idea to replace the clamps. Traditional worm-drive clamps or the new constant tension clamps are best.

To extend the service life of a hose, keep it away from damaging external elements such as hot manifolds, oil-leaking parts and sharp edges. In these situations, protect the hose with a sleeve.

You should also avoid using the soluble oils found in some coolants, under the assumption they lubricate the water pump. Most modern antifreeze solutions contain all the lubricants a water pump needs. Soluble oil only serves to destroy a hose before its time.

All cooling system hoses should be inspected every six months. Most often, the upper radiator hose bypass valve or a bypass hose will be found

warning. But, eventually they all will need to be replaced.

Cooling system hoses should be replaced roughly every four years.

Water pump leaks

It is common to find an occasional drop of coolant under the water pump. Excessive leaking, however, indicates a problem.

Housing bolts on the pump should be tight. If they are, and leaking persists, the pump's inner seal is probably damaged and the pump must be replaced.

Radiator leaks

Radiator leaks are often just the result of a loose petcock or plug. Simple tightening should correct this.

The inner seal on the radiator cap should be checked periodically. If the seal is cracked, or the metal parts are rusted, coolant will escape and the cap will fail to pressurize the remaining coolant adequately.

While stains on the radiator point to a more serious problem, these stains result from coolant reacting with the metal parts.

Pouring a liquid sealant in the radiator might solve the problem, but chances are good that the radiator needs to be repaired or replaced. This is frequently the case with many of today's aluminum radiators.

Heater leaks

Leaks can occur in the heater control valve or in the heater core. A liquid sealant can sometimes help but, more often than not, the heating system units will have to be replaced.

Engine leaks

Leaks can occur on the engine block wherever there is a bolted housing, such as at the thermostat or water pump housing.

You should also inspect the block's drain plugs and core plugs (also known as freeze plugs). Core plugs are holes left in the engine when it is cast and

later covered by metal discs. If these discs loosen or corrode, coolant can escape from the block.

If leaking continues after you've checked all the hoses, clamp connections and metal components of the cooling system, the leak is probably internal.

This situation can be confirmed by the presence of engine oil in the coolant, in the exhaust system, or transmission fluid. A visually inspected sample of the coolant will reveal the presence of oil. In both the latter situations, however, sophisticated test instruments will help make this determination.

In all cases, internal leaks can be the result of blown head gaskets, cracked heads or blocks, and loose or damaged head bolts. Usually, major engine repair is required.

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Routine maintenance

Save dollars in the long run

Motorists, beware: Summer's heat, dust and stop-and-go traffic will take their toll on your vehicle. Add the effects of last winter, and you could be poised for a breakdown.

You can lessen the odds of mechanical failure through periodic maintenance. Your vehicle should last longer, too—up to 50 percent longer, according to the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE).

ASE, which tests and certifies the competence of automotive technicians, presents the following car care tips as a public service. Some are easy to do, others require a skilled auto technician.

• **Air conditioning.** A marginally operating system will fail in hot weather. Have the system examined by a technician who is ASE-certified in air conditioning repair and service.

• **Cooling system.** The greatest cause of summer breakdowns is overheating. The cooling system should be completely flushed and refilled about every 24 months.

The level, condition, and concentration of the coolant should be checked periodically. (A 50/50 mix of anti-freeze and water is usually recommended.)

Do-it-yourselfers, wait until the engine has cooled before removing the radiator cap! The tightness and condition of drive belts, clamps and hoses should be checked by a pro.

• **Oil.** Change your oil and oil filter as specified in your manual—more often (every 3,000 miles) if you make frequent short jaunts, extended trips with lots of luggage, or tow a trailer.

My car...
my friend

Nobody enjoys being ranked second—especially when there are only two options to begin with. But it's really an insult when you are being pushed aside for something that is neither living nor breathing.

Of course, this is debatable, particularly if the object (yes, object) in question is many people's most treasured possession—their car, (a.k.a. automobile, darling, baby, number 1, etc.).

• **Let's go shopping**—for the car, that is. Bras, skirts, wings—many cars have smarter wardrobes than their owners do.

• **Have an annual check-up**—Car owners probably are more familiar with their mechanic than they are their physician.

• **Can't afford a four-star restaurant?** Car fanatics manage to scrape up enough change to fill their tanks with four-star gas!

• **Brakes.** Brakes should be inspected as recommended in your manual, or sooner if you notice pulsations, grabbing, noises, or longer stopping distance. Minor brake problems should be corrected promptly.

• **Emergencies.** Carry some basic tools. Ask a technician for suggestions. Also include a first aid kit, flares and a flashlight. Consider buying a CB radio or car phone.

To find a good technician, ask friends and associates for recommendations; check out the reputation of the repair shop with your local consumer group; and look for technicians who have earned national certification through ASE. Shops with certified technicians often display ASE's blue and white sign.

For ASE's free summer car care brochure, send a business-sized, stamped envelope to: ASE, Dept. MC-S92, 13505 Dulles Technology Dr., Herndon, VA 22071.

Prepare your car for sunny days ahead

Now that the sun is shining, long drives and vacation road trips will most likely be on your agenda.

But before you head for the open road, it's important to remember a few basics about shedding a car's "winter coat" and preparing it for the warmer months ahead.

While you may enjoy the sun, it's no picnic on your car. Soaring temperatures and increased exposure to ultraviolet rays can cause paint to oxidize, spot and dull.

"Our research has shown that interior temperatures can sometimes reach 240 degrees, baking dashboards, seats and other surfaces," says Leslie Kennedy, public relations manager, Armor All Products Corporation.

"Knowing the basics of car care and using the right products can prolong the life of a car significantly, with a minimal investment of time and money."

Kennedy identifies the following proper car-cleaning techniques:

• **Regular washings**—At least twice a month to help combat the elements and keep the finish looking new. Use a product specifically formulated for cars. Regular household detergents may strip a car's paint of its protective finish.

• **Have an annual check-up**—Car owners probably are more familiar with their mechanic than they are their physician.

• **Can't afford a four-star restaurant?** Car fanatics manage to scrape up enough change to fill their tanks with four-star gas!

Tip: Save money by drying with a clean, non-abrasive cloth, such as a baby diaper, rather than purchasing expensive chamois cloths.

• **Protection**—Dashboards, tires, consoles and other rubber, vinyl and plastic surfaces need regular cleaning and protection from the damaging effects of the sun.

A water-based protectant which has a built-in sunscreen, provides a barrier against the harmful elements.

Tip: Leave the windows slightly open on warm days to reduce interior heat.

• **Leather interiors**—Clean and moisturize with a specially-formulated leather care product to keep them fresh.

• **Tires**—Use a water-based protectant to clean and condition sidewalls to prevent damage caused by ozone and other harmful elements.

Tip: To keep hands clean, use a one-step spray-on product such as Armor All Tire Foam. No wiping is necessary.

• **Final step**—Prepare your car for springtime weather by waxing. Most cars built before 1980 have traditional lacquer finishes and need a durable, deep-cleaning wax.

Newer cars have clear coat finishes that need low-abrasive polishes which won't scratch. New to the market are waxes designed for light and dark car colors. Again, use a soft cloth for wiping and rubbing to protect the surface from scratching.

Tip: Save money by drying with a clean, non-abrasive cloth, such as a baby diaper, rather than purchasing expensive chamois cloths.

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THE SEA COAST ECHO, SPRING CAR CARE, THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1998-7

Knock, knock

That sound may point to a problem

Ominous car sounds tell you something may be wrong; understanding their cause can help you and your mechanic find and correct the problem before it becomes serious.

Here's some of the more common noises listed by Car Care Council.

A "clunk" from under the car when you start forward or back up could be a warning that a universal joint is failing. That's serious if it breaks and the drive shaft drops while you're driving.

If you have a front-wheel drive car, you'll also get a clunking sound if you have a looseness in a CV joint (like a universal joint that connects the front wheels to the transverse axle).

When you apply the brakes and hear a squeal or a scraping sound, that could indicate worn brake linings or pads. If allowed to continue, it could result in damaging brake drums or rotors, making the repair more extensive.

A thumping sound from a tire could be caused by flat spots on the tread due to improper balance or alignment. It also could be tread separation, which could result in a blowout.

The sound of ticking in the engine usually is a valve lifter, generally heard when the engine is idling.

A sudden screech from under the hood could be a worn or loose drive belt.

A knocking or ping from under the hood when you accelerate could be from low grade gasoline, incorrect timing or other tune-up adjustments.

A whining sound as you move from a standstill to normal driving speed could be coming from the transmission and could mean that you are low on transmission fluid. You probably won't hear this sound when the car is idling in neutral.



from the starter solenoid, which isn't getting enough voltage to engage the starter.

A spitting sound or rumble from somewhere under the car could be an exhaust leak. This is a potentially dangerous situation, due to poisonous exhaust fumes that could seep into the car.

If you raise the hood and hear a steady snapping sound that speeds up if the engine runs faster, it could mean a spark plug wire is loose or shorting out. The snapping sound is a spark jumping from the bad wire to the metal of the engine.

You turn on the ignition switch and hear a clicking sound, but the starter does nothing, your battery may need charging or replacing. It also could be loose or corroded connections. The clicking comes

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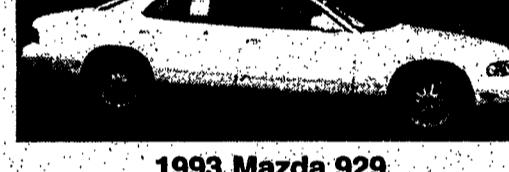
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THE SEA COAST ECHO, SPRING CAR CARE, THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1998-9

Tire inflation affects fuel maintenance level

It's quick, it's easy, it's free and, best of all, even the home mechanic who's all thumbs can do it.

The "it" is checking the pressure in your car's tires, something you should be doing on a regular basis.

Air is still free at many service stations and inexpensive tire gauges are even available in supermarkets.

Improper tire inflation takes its toll of tires through uneven wear and, in some cases, accidents.

In addition to forcing you to replace tires more frequently, an underinflated tire creates more rolling resistance. More simply put, it means that your car burns more gasoline trying to push itself along on underinflated tires.

Telling figures

Estimates show that a tire underinflated by only five pounds of air increases fuel consumption by as much as seven percent, according to one industry source.

Check tire pressure in morning

Recommended pressures normally apply to cold tires, meaning that you should check your tire pressures early in the morning, before you begin your drive.

If underinflating a tire is bad, what about overinflation? The answer is that putting too much air in your tires is not advisable because, like underinflation, this can also cause tires to wear prematurely, decrease ride comfort, alter your car's handling performance, and reduce the tires' contact patch, that small square of your tire in contact with the road's surface at a given moment.

How do you know if your car's tires need more or less air? One way is that an underinflated tire will often show wear on the outer surfaces of the tread. An overinflated tire will show wear by the smoothing of the tread in the middle of the tire, but your best bet is keeping a tire gauge in your car and taking readings regularly.

Replace tires as necessary
By federal law, all tires

Clean the inside of your car

(MS) — Spring signals the time for new beginnings. Time to apply a fresh coat of paint to that fence and clear fallen limbs from the yard. Spring also is the time to start thinking about getting your car in shape for summertime fun by rescuing the interior from wintertime debris.

While your car's exterior may be directly subject to the elements, a season's worth of snow- and mud-covered boots and winter grime also can take their toll on the inside. To help restore your car to its pre-winter glory, it's a good idea to treat the interior to a thorough revitalization.

"After a long, hard winter, it's important to get your car's interior back in shape," says Steve Flavin, STP product manager. "The first step is to clean surfaces thoroughly, then finish the job with a good protectant. Maintaining a regular cleaning regimen not only will leave your car looking good, but can help eliminate big cleanups in the future."

Remove the spots and stains that dot your interior with a powerful stain remover like Tuff Stuff® Spot & Stain Remover, which features deep-cleaning foaming action that quickly penetrates and lifts

tough stains from carpet and interior fabric. For added convenience, there is a sturdy scrub brush on the can to make cleaning easier.

To clean interior trim, dash, vinyl and even glass surfaces, use a good all-purpose cleaner like STP® Son Of A Gun® Car Cleaner. Get yourself some clean towels, spray it on and wipe away the grime.

Once the car's interior surfaces are clean, apply a protectant to restore lost luster and provide protection against sunlight, dust, and everyday wear and tear. STP® Son Of A Gun® Protectant Towels provide a simple and easy way to apply the right amount every time. Each towel acts as a portion-controlled delivery system that ensures less waste than traditional protectant sprays. Just wipe on and you're done.

Let's say you want to periodically touch up your car's interior, but don't have a lot of time. Now, there's a great way to clean and protect your interior with one treatment: STP® Son Of A Gun® Cockpit Spray not only cleans interior surfaces, but also provides a low-gloss shine to revitalize interior surfaces and keep them looking great.

sold in this country must incorporate wear indicators in the form of smooth, treadless strips running across the width of the tire, which become visible as the tire's tread reaches the point that indicates the tire should be replaced.

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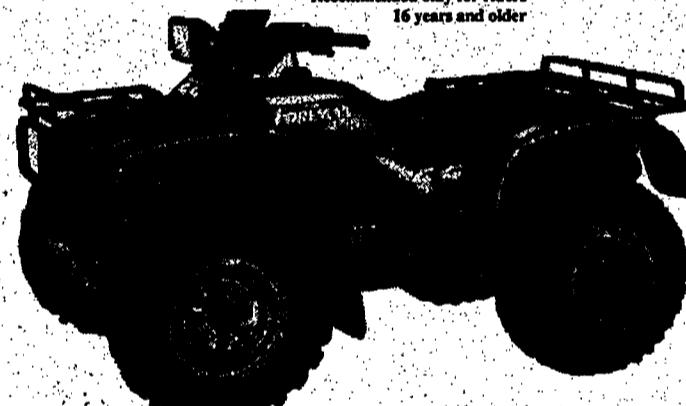
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Protect your car's engine from the heat

Summertime temperatures and heat from your car's engine can cause motor oil to lose viscosity or become thinner, resulting in an overheated automobile.

Experts suggest checking the owner's manual to select the correct motor oil viscosity grade. A SAE 10W-30 or

10W-40 motor oil is recommended for year-round use where there is a seasonal temperature change.

These multi-grade oils can adapt to a greater range of temperatures better than is possible for a single-grade motor oil. The majority of late model cars suggest a SAE

5W-30 or 10W-30 motor oil.

For areas with consistently warm climates, it is recommended using a thicker oil such as SAE 20W-40 or 20W-50 motor oil. It is a good rule of thumb to change the oil every 3,000 miles.

Closely monitor engine oil levels and change the oil and oil filter.

There are six easy steps for changing your own oil and saving money, too. Before you begin you will need the following items: an oil filter wrench, the amount and type of motor oil recommended for the car's engine,

an oil filter, a wrench to remove the drain plug, and a low, wide pan to catch the used oil.

• **Step 1:** Position car in a safe spot. Run engine up to operating temperature, then turn off. Set the parking brake.

• **Step 2:** Place drain pan under the car beneath the oil drain plug. Use the wrench to loosen the drain plug. The oil will be hot, so watch your hands.

• **Step 3:** Next remove the oil filter with the filter wrench by turning counter-clockwise. Be careful not to turn the oil filter upside down because it will be

filled with oil.

• **Step 4:** After allowing enough time to drain the oil fully, replace and tighten the oil drain plug and install the new oil filter. Use your finger to put a light film of oil on the filter gasket and tighten the new filter by hand to ensure a tight seal.

• **Step 5:** Check the owner's manual for the oil fill location and add new oil. Use the proper weight for your car and climate.

• **Step 6:** Dispose of the used oil in an environmentally safe and legally recognized manner.

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Answers to common questions about motor oil

(MS) — Q: I found a few old cans of motor oil in the garage during spring cleaning. Is it safe to put them in my car?

Even though motor oil has a fairly long shelf life, you want to be careful about some of those old cans. The worst case scenario is that they may contain sedimentation due to condensation inside the container. In addition, it is likely that the oil does not satisfy current American Petroleum Institute (API) performance expectations. Today's smaller engines with tighter tolerances have led the API to upgrade the performance standards for motor oil. Motor oil for cars today currently carry an "SJ" rating. For late model, mechanically sound engines, use a high-quality synthetic motor oil and properly dispose of those old cans at either a recycling center or any of your local oil change facilities.

Q: What does motor oil do?

While motor oils serve a variety of functions, they primarily are necessary to lubricate and cool the engine. When the engine is at rest, the motor oil sits in the bottom of the engine block in what is called the oil pan. Upon start-up, an oil pump feeds oil from the pan to the oil distribution system, a network of passages, tubes, grooves and holes leading to the engine bearing and other surfaces that need pressurized oil for lubrication. Other parts, like the overhead valve system, receive a carefully controlled quantity of non-pressurized oil through splash or spray.

In addition to lubricating and cooling engine parts, motor oil must allow easy starting, protect the engine from corrosion and oxidation, keep the engine clean, form a tight seal between piston rings and cylinder walls, and help the engine use fuel efficiently.

Q: What is the difference between conventional and synthetic motor oil?

Conventional lubricants are refined from crude oil, which has thousands of types of molecules. Refining is a process of physically separating the impurities from the oil and further separating the light and heavy components. Because refining separates products by weight, it groups molecules of similar weight and dissimilar structure. The result is a lubricant with a wide assortment of molecules. Some of the substances in crude oil are detrimental to lubrication. Paraffins, for example, are a common conventional oil contaminant that causes motor oil to thicken in cold temperatures.

Synthetic motor oils are made from pure chemicals, not refined crude. Their components are chemically designed to produce finished products with pre-designed performance characteristics. Because of their molecular uniformity, they excel in reducing friction, which improves fuel efficiency, controls heat and reduces wear. This molecular uniformity also helps synthetic oils resist thinning in hot temperatures and thickening in cold.

Q: My friend says synthetic oils are better for the environment. I say that improperly disposed synthetic oils aren't really any better. Who's right?

You both are right. The environmental benefits of synthetic lubricants are most apparent when you consider their extended drain capabilities. Synthetic compressor oils last eight times longer than their petroleum counterparts. This means eight times less waste oil to dispose of. Synthetic motor oils for cars and light trucks last two to 10 times longer than conventional petroleum, depending on

the product and the manufacturer. Fewer oil changes mean less waste oil, as well as less container-waste disposal. If oil-change intervals were extended universally, there would be less making its way into our drinking water.

It should be noted that synthetic motor oils still require the same disposal care as traditional petroleum motor oils.

Q: What does the slogan "Change your thinking, not your oil" mean?

Changing oil is a hassle. If you were to use a longer-life synthetic motor oil, you could lengthen oil-change intervals. One of the biggest impediments to embracing extended drain intervals is fear.

AMSOIL Inc. of Superior, Wis., has accumulated more than 25 years of oil analysis data documenting the long-life protection afforded by high-quality synthetic motor oils.

Q: I know synthetic motor oil is better in winter cold, but what about benefits for people who live in Arizona or South Texas? Do synthetics have any hot weather advantages?

Oil volatility is the measure of how susceptible an oil is to boil-off under high heat conditions. Most petroleum oils experience significant boil-off during high temperature engine operation and are expelled into the environment.

The thicker oil left behind contributes to damaging deposits, sticky piston rings and oil blow-by, all contributing to reduced engine life and increased air pollution.

Synthetic oils are far more impervious to this kind of degradation. The lower volatility of synthetics is another reason why they are better for the environment than conventional products.

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Female motorists can know more about cars

Women not only are gaining a larger influence in the purchase of cars, but they are making more decisions about the maintenance and repair of their vehicles.

According to the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE), more than 65 percent of customers who take their vehicles to a repair shop for service are women, and some estimate that number at closer to 80 percent.

Periodic service is essential, especially at seasonal changes, but it need not be nerve-wracking. By understanding just a few of the car's basic operations, female motorists—and all motorists—can gain confidence in the recommendations of a competent technician, especially one who will pay close attention to one of the most basic and overlooked operations: the cooling system.

The Gates Rubber Co., a leading manufacturer of engine belts and hoses, explains some of the suggestions you are likely to hear.

In the cooling system, liquid coolant is circulated by the water pump through rubber hoses that carry excess engine heat to the radiator. The heat then is removed by outside air flowing through the radiator. The engine's thermostat controls the temperature and amount of coolant entering the radiator.

Just as the human heart pumps blood throughout the body, the water pump is the heart of the cooling system. The pump is turned by a serpentine belt riding on a pulley attached to other engine accessories.

So, what might your technician recommend?

"Change Your Belts, Ma'am?"

Engine belts are made of elastic rubber compounds and while they are extremely sturdy, even the best belts last an average of only four years. If a belt breaks, the best scenario is that the fan will quit spinning and the coolant will not cool down as efficiently. At worst, the water pump will stop, the coolant will not circulate and, eventually, the engine will overheat.

When your service technician recommends belt replacement, he or she will have checked for heat wear, cracks or other signs of failure—and you can examine the belts yourself for these signs. Do keep in mind that many belts can look new on the outside, yet be close to failure on the inside due to weakened or separated reinforcement cords. If



your belts have five years or 50,000 miles of service, they're due for replacement.

"Replace Your Hoses, Ma'am?"

Hose failure can leave you stranded. Like your belts, the rubber in your vehicle's hoses weakens as it ages. Hoses tend to become softer with the passage of time and begin to change shape and crack.

Hoses that look and feel good on the outside may be deteriorating inside, so it's important to have them checked by a professional service technician. The technician also will check connections, which are the metal clamps at the ends of the hoses. Hoses and clamps are essential to the leak-proof transfer of coolant through different parts of the engine. The connections must be secure. If there's a leak, small drops of fluid on the metal parts near the hose or a whitish crust buildup will be visible. Your technician needs either to tighten the clamps or replace them if necessary.

The service tech also will examine the hoses at this time to make sure that the rubber is firm and without bulges. If it feels mushy or appears distorted, he or she will recommend immediate replacement.

If 35,000 miles or three or four years have passed since the last time the coolant hoses were changed, they should be replaced, as the incidence of hose failure rises sharply after the fourth year. Even though a hose may look good from the outside, hoses can fail just as easily from the inside where you can't see.

"Take A Look At That Thermostat, Ma'am?"

If you're getting your belts and hoses checked, you might as well have your service technician check out your vehicle's thermostat as well.

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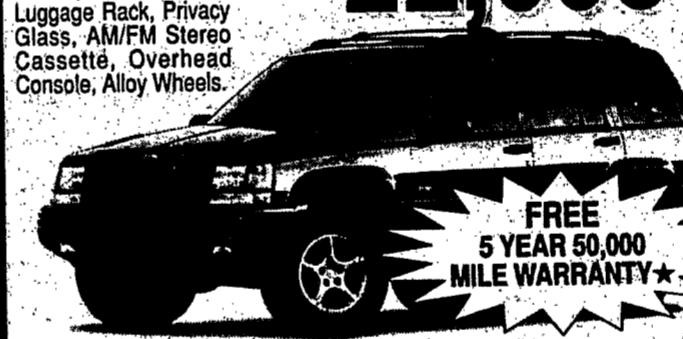
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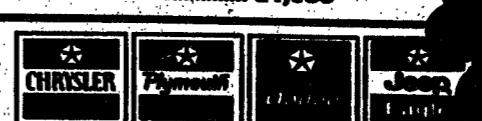
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